Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-098
Monday
24 May 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-098 24 May 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief on Lockerbie, China *[MENA]* 1
AMU Trade Unions See Religious Extremism as Threat *[Algiers Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

PNC Speaker To Submit Resignation at Next Session 1
Protests 'Contradictory' Decisions *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Clarifies Position *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
'Abd-al-Shafi, 'Ashrawi React *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
Resignation 'Applauded' *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 3
PLO Issues Statement on 9th Round of Talks *[AL-QUDS 20 May]* 3
'Abd-al-Shafi Comments on Call To Suspend Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
Al-Husayni Criticizes Call *[AFP]* 7
'Arafat Comments on Peace Talks, U.S. Paper *[Cairo International]* 7
'Ashrawi Comments on Gaza First, Saudi Aid *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9
'Arafat Says National Unity Will Wreck Israeli 'Plots' *[Algiers VOP]* 10
Palestinian Delegation Leaves for Tokyo Talks *[AL-QUDS 20 May]* 10

Arab Africa

Algeria

Death Sentences Urged in Airport Bombing Case *[Algiers TV]* 11
Oran Court Passes Sentence in Tlemcen Attacks Case *[Algiers Radio]* 11
National Conference To Prepare for Transitional Period *[Algiers TV]* 11
RCD Not Participating in Second Round of Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 11

Egypt

Al-Baz Leaves for U.S. To Discuss Peace Process *[Cairo Radio]* 11
AL-AHRAM on U.S. Officials' Remarks on Talks *[MENA]* 11
Mubarak on Government Reshuffle, Terrorism, Iran *[MENA]* 12
Mubarak's Right To Refer Cases to Military Court Upheld *[MENA]* 12
Bomb Explodes in Northern Cairo Suburb 21 May *[MENA]* 12
Source Says Three Killed, 15 Wounded *[Cairo Radio]* 13
High-Level Team To Investigate *[Cairo Radio]* 13
Death Toll Rises to Six *[MENA]* 13
Police Arrest 50 'Militants' *[AFP]* 13
Bombing Seen as 'Warning Signal' *[Cairo Radio]* 14
Death Toll Rises; Lab Report Released *[MENA]* 15
Security Officials Comment *[AFP]* 15
University Professor Said Target *[MENA]* 15
Explosive Devices Defused in Metro, Outside School *[AFP]* 15
Gunmen Kill Policeman Near Asyut, Flee *[MENA]* 16

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Says West Behind Terrorism in Arab Countries *[JANA]* 16

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Union of Administrators 16
Delivers Speech *[Tripoli TV]* 16
Further on Meeting *[Tripoli TV]* 17
Al-Qadhdhafi Phones Egypt's Mubarak on Arab Issues *[MENA]* 17

Sudan

Government Meets With Unified Faction in Nairobi *[Omdurman Radio]* 17
Al-Bashir on Egypt, Iran, Terror Allegations *[AL-SHIRA' 17 May]* 18
Opposition Calls For Overthrow of al-Bashir *[MENA]* 20
Abu-Salih on Relations With Egypt, Iran *[AL-HAWADITH 21 May]* 20

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives With Message for Amir *[WAKH]* 22
Amir, Prime Minister Confer With PRC Official *[WAKH]* 22

Kuwait

'High-Level' Official on Agenda for Talks With Velayati *[MENA]* 22
Government Pleased With Border Committee's Work *[KUNA]* 22
France Ends War Games, Begins Maneuvers With Qatar *[AFP]* 22
Defense Minister on Revamping Army Command, Russia Visit *[KUNA]* 23
GCC States Show 'Total Understanding' of Oil Stance *[Kuwait Radio]* 23

Oman

Iran's Velayati Discusses Relations With Officials 23
Meeting With Under Secretary *[Muscat Radio]* 23
Terms Talks 'Satisfactory' *[Tehran Radio]* 24
Delivers Message to Qabus *[Muscat Radio]* 24

Qatar

Iran's Foreign Minister Velayati Arrives 23 May *[WAKH]* 24

Saudi Arabia

Official Statement on Deaths in Iraqi Refugee Camp Clash *[SPA]* 24
U.S. Envoy Gives Christopher Message to Crown Prince *[Riyadh Radio]* 25
Human Rights Activist Reportedly Tortured *[AFP]* 25
Human Rights Founder Resigns; Prince Faults Western Media *[AFP]* 26
Interior Ministry Forbids Leaflet Distribution During Hajj *[Riyadh Radio]* 27

United Arab Emirates

Iran's Velayati Holds 'Friendly' Talks in Abu Dhabi *[Tehran Radio]* 27
Readiness for Talks on Islands *[IRNA]* 27
Speaker's Comments on Island Dispute Dismissed *[AFP]* 27

Yemen

Council Asks al-'Attas To Form New Government *[Sanaa Radio]* 28
Official on 'Improving' U.S., Gulf Ties, Elections *[MENA]* 28

IRAQ

Government Will Not Accept UN Border Decision *[MENA]* 29
UN Sanctions Committee Stands Protested *[INA]* 29

Regime Said Hiding Missile Equipment West of Mosul *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 30
Shelling of Northern Kurdish Villages Reported *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 30
Kurdistan Delegation Visits Iran *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 30
Talabani Says Region May Use Syrian, Turkish Currency *[London MBC TV]* 30
Barzani, Talabani Cite Western Assurances for Kurds *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 30
Oil Installations Blown Up; Officers Assassinated *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 31
Army Units Attacked by Islamic Resistance Forces *[Tehran Radio]* 31
International Satellite TV To Start in 1993 *[INA]* 31

ISRAEL

Rabin Ready To Implement Settlement in Gaza First *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
Proposal Follows Secret Palestinian Messages *[DAVAR 24 May]* 32
Contigency Plan Denied *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Likud's Qatzav Supports Rabin *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
'Arafat Bid for Recognition Seen *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
'Abd-al-Shafi Reacts *[HA'ARETZ 24 May]* 33
Trend Toward Acceptance of Self-Rule Confirmed *[HADASHOT 24 May]* 33
Beilin on U.S. Role, PNC Chairman Resignation *[Tel Aviv TV]* 34
Beilin Assesses Bilateral, Multilateral Talks *[HA'ARETZ 23 May]* 35
ICRC President Charges Geneva Convention Violations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Gen. Rothschild on Conditions in West Bank, Gaza *[Jerusalem TV]* 36
Temple Mount Prayers End Quietly; Arab Shot in Nabulus *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Two Gaza Houses Sealed; Youths Wounded by IDF *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Soldiers Injured, 'Terrorists' Captured in Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Jewish Youth, 6 Arabs Wounded in Territories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Update on Intifadah Incidents 23 May *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Four Soldiers Killed by 'Friendly Fire' in Lebanon *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 37
No-Confidence Motions Withdrawn After Lebanon Incident *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 38
IDF Sources Deny Helicopter Raid in South Lebanon *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 38
Libya's al-Qadhdhafi Said Ready for Diplomatic Ties *[DAVAR 21 May]* 38

LEBANON

Al-Hariri Returns From Visit to Damascus *[Beirut Radio]* 39
Al-Hirawi Returns From Damascus Summit *[VOL]* 39
Buwayz, British Official Discuss Mideast Situation *[Beirut Radio]* 39
British Official Departs *[Beirut Radio]* 39
Buwayz on Israeli Document, Military Committee *[VOM]* 39
Hizballah Leader Comments on Israeli Document *[VOL]* 39
Official Denies Changes in Negotiating Team *[VOM]* 40
Deportee Spokesman Notes Palestinian 'Retractions' *[VOM]* 40
Praises PNC Speaker's Resignation *[VOM]* 40
Israeli Helicopters Attack Southern Town *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Raid Targets Hizballah Areas *[AFP]* 40
Second Attack, Mock Raids Reported *[VOL]* 40
Islamic Resistance, SLA Fighters Killed 41
Two Killed Planting Bomb *[AFP]* 41
SLA Militiamen Killed by Bomb *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Civilian Also Killed in Bomb Attack *[AFP]* 41
Hizballah Radio Claims 7 Killed *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 41
Army Seizes Weapons From Fatah-Revolutionary Council *[AL-SHIRA' 17 May]* 41

SYRIA

Lebanese Prime Minister Comments on Damascus Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 42
Lebanese President Pays Unexpected Visit *[VOL]* 42
Meets al-Asad *[SANA]* 42
Media Comment on Israeli, U.S. Stances at Peace Talks 42
U.S. Must Exert Influence *[Damascus Radio]* 42
U.S Uses Same Standard for 'Victim, Murderer' *[SANA]* 43

Arab Position Praised *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Arabs Will Not Concede Land, Rights *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 45
U.S. Role 'Fell Short of Expectations' *[Damascus Radio]* 45

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Defense Ministry Jet Bombs Kabul District in Error *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Unofficial Cease-Fire Announced in Kabul *[AFP]* 46

India

Minister, Parties React to Malott's Remarks on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Further Reaction *[AFP]* 46
Pakistani Intelligence Said Working To Escalate Unrest *[PATRIOT 12 May]* 47
Reportage on Military Operations in Jammu, Kashmir 48
Seven Killed, 11 Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Pakistani Among 14 Killed *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Large Arms Cache Seized *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Top Punjab Militant, 2 Accomplices Killed in Clash *[Delhi Radio]* 49
New Governors Appointed in Three States *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Scientists Develop Process To Remove Radioactivity *[Delhi Radio]* 49

Iran

President Discusses U.S., Economy at News Conference *[IRNA]* 49
Foreign Ministry Official Criticizes Indyk Remarks *[AFP]* 50
Anniversary of Khorramshahr Liberation Marked 50
IRGC Commander Comments *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Fallen Servicemen Honored *[Tehran Radio]* 50
President Pays Tribute *[IRNA]* 51
Ahmad Khomeyni Speaks *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Special Maneuvers To Be Held *[Tehran Radio]* 51
8,000 Men in First Phase *[Tehran Radio]* 52
President Addresses Security Forces Personnel *[Tehran TV]* 52
Justice Minister Says West Gives Safe Haven to Terrorists *[IRNA]* 52
Candidate Taheri Favors Direct Talks With U.S. *[IRNA]* 53
Candidate Tavakkoli Holds News Conference *[TEHRAN TIMES 17 May]* 53
Meshkini Criticizes Egypt in Qom Friday Prayer Sermon *[Tehran TV]* 55
Commentary Discusses Velayati Gulf Tour *[Tehran International]* 55
* Paper on Hasty Evaluation of Tehran Mayor *[Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVAT 28 Apr]* 56

Pakistan

Army Prepares Plans for Supervising Elections *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Provincial Assembly To Elect New Balochistan Chief *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Sharif: Judiciary, Army Should Not Be Politicized *[DAWN 21 May]* 57
U.S. Changing Policy on South Asia Viewed 58
'Sensible' Approach Welcomed *[THE MUSLIM 21 May]* 58
Analysis of Kashmir Issue Viewed *[DAWN 21 May]* 59
Pirzada: U.S. 'Evenhanded' on Nuclear Issue *[Islamabad International]* 59
Reportage on Afghan President Visit, News Conference 60
Rabbani on Refugees *[Islamabad Radio]* 60
Rabbani Arrives in Islamabad *[Islamabad International]* 60
Ishaq Khan Meets Rabbani *[Islamabad TV]* 60
All Parties To Surrender Heavy Weapons *[Islamabad TV]* 60

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief on Lockerbie, China

NC2105132793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left Cairo for Beijing today on a 10-day visit to China.

He said before leaving that the purpose of the visit is to sign an agreement on opening an Arab League office in Beijing and hold talks with Chinese officials on various issues of concern to the Arab world and the Arab League. He added that opening an Arab League bureau in Beijing is necessary since the League has offices in the capitals of the other four Security Council permanent member states and because China is a friend of the Arab world and constantly supports Arab countries at the various international forums. He added: We are eager to consolidate the friendship between us and China.

On his meeting with Douglas Hogg, British state minister for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, which dealt with the Lockerbie issue, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that there is nothing new in this regard. He added: We want to put an end to this problem in a way that serves Libya's interests and the interests and stability of the region and averts any escalation. He pointed out that the issue is still under study and discussion and added: We are doing our best to settle this matter peacefully, particularly since the Libyan Government has shown much flexibility and readiness to reach an understanding, thus providing hope for a dialogue over and a peaceful settlement of this problem.

On his tour of the Arab states to clear the atmosphere, Dr. 'Abd- al-Majid pointed out that the tour has been delayed for some time to wait for replies from a number of Arab presidents. He added: I have already received answers from eight Arab countries, and they are all positive, and when the remaining answers arrive we will start consultations with the Arab countries. [passage omitted]

AMU Trade Unions See Religious Extremism as Threat

LD2205132193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] In the Maghreb, the presidential council of the Federation of Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Trade Unions praised the efforts exerted by the Maghreban leaders to clear the atmosphere in the Maghreb, strengthen bilateral cooperation, and make the unity of the Maghreb a living reality with all speed, in view of the economic, social, political, and security challenges facing the region.

This praise came in a final statement issued by the presidential council of the Federation of AMU Trade Unions at the end of its first ordinary session, which was convened in Tunis.

The statement also dealt with other points, which Rachid Ben Hemimid will review.

[Rachid] The final statement issued yesterday also stressed the need for AMU bodies to move more effectively and more swiftly to keep pace with international changes in order to firmly establish the Maghreban entity, taking into consideration respect for democratic liberties and human rights, with trade union freedoms at the forefront.

In this regard, the council highlighted the importance of guaranteeing greater freedom of movement for workers, commodities, and capital and consolidating the means of establishing integrated projects between the various Maghreban countries.

The presidential council of the Federation of AMU Trade Unions furthermore expressed its belief that religious extremism and the resulting terrorism and violence constitutes a major threat to democracy in the Maghreban countries and is a direct threat to the march toward unity.

At the end of its statement, the council noted the positive results which have been achieved thanks to cooperation with European trade union organizations on issues of joint concern, especially those related to questions of emigration, indebtedness, investment policies, and combating environmental pollution.

We recall that the AMU trade union presidential council is currently chaired by Mr. Abdelhak Benhamouda, secretary general of the General Union of Algerian Workers.

Palestinian Affairs

PNC Speaker To Submit Resignation at Next Session

Protests 'Contradictory' Decisions

JN2205130493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] In statements to AFP, Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih said today he was resigning the post he has held since 1984 to protest contradictory Palestinian decisions related to the peace process. He added that the peace process is not serious and he could not perform his duties under such circumstances.

However, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih explained that his resignation does not take effect immediately and will be submitted at the next PNC session.

Speaking to our colleague Salah Salamah, the PNC speaker explained his decision to resign:

[Begin al-Sa'ih recording] I plan to resign because, first of all, I am ill. Second, my assessment of the general conditions and circumstances in the Palestinian arena—whether those brought on by the United States, Israel, or members and the head of the negotiating team, or even by the Palestinian leadership, which made mistakes that shouldn't have been made—has forced me to plan to submit my resignation to the PNC when it convenes. I was entrusted with the Palestinian cause by the PNC, and, hence, I wish to prove to the entire world that I have delivered the trust as I received it, without making any concessions or relinquishing anything. This is what I wish to say, and it is wrong to say that I have already submitted my resignation or consider myself resigned. [end recording]

Clarifies Position

JN2205183093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1723 GMT 22 May 93

[Interview with Palestine National Council Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih by Salah Salamah on 22 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Salamah] Your Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, this morning we received the news of your resignation as speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. What are the real reasons behind your resignation?

[Al-Sa'ih] First of all, I have not submitted my resignation. This is because my resignation can only be submitted to a convened session of the PNC. I plan to submit my resignation to the PNC itself when it convenes. However, before it convenes, to whom can I submit my resignation?

[Salamah] This means that you have not officially submitted your resignation?

[Al-Sa'ih] This means that I plan to submit my resignation when the PNC convenes. As for now, the PNC is not in session. Again I say, to whom shall I submit my resignation?

[Salamah] So, you are still the legitimate speaker of the PNC. Nonetheless, why do you plan to resign this post?

[Al-Sa'ih] I plan to resign because, first of all, I am ill. Second, my assessment of the general conditions and circumstances in the Palestinian arena—whether those brought on by the United States, Israel, or members and the head of the negotiating delegation, or even by the Palestinian leadership, which made mistakes that should not have been made—has forced me to plan to submit my resignation to the PNC when it convenes. I was entrusted with the Palestinian cause by the PNC, and, hence, I wish to prove to the world that I have delivered the trust as I received it, without making any concessions or relinquishing anything. This is what I wish to say, and it is wrong to say that I have already submitted my resignation or consider myself resigned.

[Salamah] Your Eminence, this means that you are dissatisfied with the current situation in the Palestinian arena. Can you tell us the exact points which dissatisfy you at this particular stage?

[Al-Sa'ih] First of all, America's stand, the stand of the United States, which makes promises but does not fulfill them. It also makes statements and does not abide by them. Second, Israel's stand. Israel has escalated the establishment of settlements. It has increased pressure on the Palestinian people, and continued to harm and overburden them. This is in addition the stand of the head and members of the negotiating delegation, including Dr. Haydar ['Abd-al-Shafi], al-Husayni, and 'Ashrawi. They all make contradictory statements.

[Salamah] Your Eminence, for what do you criticize the negotiating team?

[Al-Sa'ih] It should express its opinion and say that negotiations must be suspended until tangible results are achieved. This is because all the rounds of the peace talks which preceded the ninth round were useless and fruitless.

[Salamah] Your Eminence, do you support the suspension of the talks?

[Al-Sa'ih] Why should we continue with them?

[Salamah] So, you agree with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who called for the suspension of talks because all rounds have been fruitless to date?

[Al-Sa'ih] Yes, he said that.

[Salamah] Do you agree with his statements?

[Al-Sa'ih] Yes, of course I agree.

[Salamah] What about the position of Faysal al-Husayni, who affirmed that the Palestinian option is to continue with the peace process?

[Al-Sa'ih] America should pressure for Israeli concessions that are line with the position of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian leadership. America should do that. America is shirking its responsibilities.

[Salamah] Your intended resignation represents a strong protest of this U.S. evasion to make Israel respond to the call of peace?

[Al-Sa'ih] This is one way of saying I disagree, at least. I do not agree with all that is taking place in the Palestinian arena. However, this position should not be exploited in the interest of one party at the expense of another. Nor should I be viewed as being against a certain Palestinian party, leadership, or faction. I do not accept that. I will not allow any Palestinian faction,

individual, or leadership to take advantage of this position in its own interest rather than in the interest of the Palestinian cause.

[Salamah] Your Eminence, one last question if you will: At this stage in particular, it is a Palestinian demand to protect the cohesiveness of the domestic front. There are many factions that demand a comprehensive national dialogue to secure national Palestinian unity. Do you believe that your intended resignation will lead to a cohesive domestic Palestinian front, or will it lead to further disintegration?

[Al-Sa'ih] The Palestinian people will feel that there is an abnormal and unhealthy situation, and realize that dialogue is required. Dialogue, yes, but with whom? Dialogue should take place with the Palestinian leaders and all Palestinian factions so that we can exchange views and everyone can feel able to express and discuss their views freely and frankly with others. After we reach a result, then the [PLO] Central Council, the PNC, or a Palestinian conference—whatever is appropriate and in the interest of the masses—can be held.

[Salamah] PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, thank you for this interview with Radio Monte Carlo.

[Al-Sa'ih] Thank you.

'Abd-al-Shafi, 'Ashrawi React

JN2305165993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 May 93

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chief Palestinian delegate to the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks and spokesperson Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi by radio correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi: How do you react to Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih's announcement that he is stepping down as speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC]?

['Abd-al-Shafi] To begin with, I regret the shaykh's resignation decision, considering that he has done a good job for the Palestinian cause as PNC speaker. However, he remains entitled to make the decision as he sees fit. If he is actually stepping down for political differences ... [changes thought] Indeed, there are differences. We know there is opposition to the peace process. However, I must say there are no real differences in the negotiating team. I feel sorry that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid is resigning. However, I can understand his private circumstances.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, there have been conflicting reports about the reasons behind Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih's resignation. What is the truth behind his decision?

['Ashrawi] The report is true, originating as it did from Shaykh al-Sa'ih himself. According to the official version I have heard, he asked that [PNC Deputy Speaker] Adib al-Za'nun take over from him temporarily, pending the next session of the PNC when he will tender his resignation. He is resigning basically on health grounds. Furthermore, al-Sa'ih voiced unease over the peace process and the Palestinian internal front and contradictions. However, the consensus is that Shaykh al-Sa'ih speaks for the Palestinian [passage indistinct] if he does go ahead with the resignation when the PNC convenes, his departure will be such a loss for the Palestinian people. Obviously, he has contributed much to the Palestinian people and cause.

[Mu'addi] Are there underlying political dimensions in al- Sa'ih's decision to step down while the bilateral talks are in full swing?

['Ashrawi] Shaykh al-Sa'ih has consistently conducted himself responsibly within legitimate and democratic Palestinian institutions. Even in his [passage indistinct] he did not tender his resignation, he just said he would do so when the PNC convened, and he asked his deputy to assume his duties for him for the time being. He has shouldered heavy responsibilities. In my opinion, the last thing on al-Sa'ih's or the Palestinian leadership's mind is to create confusion or rifts in the Palestinian street. I think this is out of the question.

Resignation 'Applauded'

JN2305181893 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the returning deportees, God willing, today applauded His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih's decision to resign the speakership of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. He called the decision a courageous and responsible initiative and urged the so-called Palestinian delegation to withdraw from the Washington talks. Failure to pull out will split Palestinian ranks, al-Rantisi warned. Shaykh al-Sa'ih had attributed his resignation to conflicting decisions of the Tunis leadership and its negotiating team.

Al-Rantisi called for a national Palestinian dialogue, a clear Palestinian agenda and a responsible Palestinian decision.

Meanwhile, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has applauded Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih's position on the Madrid-Washington line, seeing in his eminence's resignation further evidence of the tight spot in which the Madrid-Washington people now find themselves. The PFLP said in a press release: We hope this will mark the beginning of political soul-searching within the framework of a national dialogue.

PLO Issues Statement on 9th Round of Talks

TA2105162993 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 May 93 p 6

["Text" of statement issued by the PLO's talks follow-up committee on 17 May in Tunis]

[Text] Tunis—The PLO's talks follow-up committee issued a statement on the ninth round of negotiations in Washington. The statement says:

The ninth round of bilateral talks between the Arab delegations, including our Palestinian delegation, and the Israeli Government's delegation ended in Washington.

The ninth round was convened after a break of about five months because of the Palestinian leadership's insistence on its declared stance since the end of the eighth round as a result of Israel's deportation of 415 Palestinian residents to Marj al-Zuhur in south Lebanon. During this time the PLO waged a large-scale political battle on all fronts, the direct result of which was Security Council Resolution 799 relating to the repatriation of the deportees to their homeland.

In light of subsequent political developments and the agreements reached with the U.S. Administration, and with the knowledge of the Arab states, the PLO decided to return to the peace talks in Washington provided that the political and practical undertakings would be realized on the eve of and during the negotiating round. Indeed, an Israeli announcement accepted Faysal al-Husayni's inclusion to the negotiating table after he and our other brothers from Jerusalem were deprived of sitting at this table in the past. Along with Faysal al-Husayni, some brothers from outside entered the working committees for the first time. Undoubtedly, this represents a break in the Madrid formula over Palestinian representation, although not in the form that we would have preferred, namely, Palestinian representation through the PLO.

The Israeli decision to repatriate 30 citizens from among the brothers deported from June 1967 until 1987 set a precedent with an important political implication. Pressure should be used to conclude this process and achieve the return of all the deportees as a national Palestinian right, in parallel with our continued struggle and contacts for the repatriation of the brother deportees in Marj al-Zuhur.

The Palestinian decision to go to the talks was not the outcome of foreign pressure nor a response to the appeals of some countries. It was in harmony with our political understanding of the negotiating process, especially since we are waging it as an intense political battle that is more complicated than our military battles. While we are engaged in this battle, it is being accompanied by an escalating struggle inside our occupied homeland. Despite all the complexities involving a return to the talks, the decision by our people's political leadership was also in harmony with the Arab position, epitomized by the cordon states ministers' Damascus statement, which maintained the unity of joint tendency to go to the talks.

The Negotiating Track

Our delegation went to the talks armed with the negotiating plan adopted by the political leadership during the previous rounds, with a clear definition of our goal in this round, which was to reach agreement on a "declaration of principles." This, so that the talks would have a defined framework and as an essential step for discussing substantive issues and ensuring serious and real progress in the talks.

With the start of the talks, agreement was reached on forming working committees for land, water, and substance. In addition, a human rights committee was set up not as part of the negotiations but parallel to them, stemming from our concept that Palestinian human rights are not subject to a negotiating process.

The Committees' Work

A. The substance committee: This committee's work covered a number of basic concepts relating to the substance of the negotiating process, including the talks' aim and terms of reference; the scope of Palestinian authority; elections; the Palestinian interim government's authority, legislative powers, and general responsibilities; security; economy; and the liaison and arbitration committees.

The committee's work involved a discussion of all these concepts during which the viewpoint of each party was defined. A great difference appeared between our two viewpoints on the different substantive issues.

B. The land and water committee: This committee dealt with one of the talks' basic issues whose delineation will determine the concept of a political settlement from the viewpoint of linkage between the transitional and final stages. Defining the Palestinian government's territorial unity constitutes a basic factor since in previous rounds the Israeli delegation revealed its own concept of land based on dividing and separating the land, which deprives the interim stage of the content for which we are striving.

Our delegation stressed the fact that Palestinian land is a single unit whose ownership and control belongs to a Palestinian authority, whereas the Israeli delegation tried to deal in a new way with its old concept by presenting general terms but with the same previous content.

C. The human rights committee: Our delegation insisted that this committee was not part of the negotiations, but parallel to them. The committee held two meetings during which it transpired that the Israeli enemy's delegation was attempting to use this committee to exert pressure on the work of the other committees and on the negotiations. It made the achievement of any progress in this committee conditional to the achievement of progress in other committees. This forced the Palestinian leadership to suspend this committee's work in order to block the Israeli maneuver.

The Presented Plans

A. The Israeli plan on a declaration of principles: On 6 May, at the end of the second week, the Israeli delegation presented an "unofficial" draft plan for a declaration of principles.

The draft considered that the aim of the talks was the establishment of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The talks are to be conducted in two phases interlocked in a timeframe, with all options remaining open.

The draft noted that the vast majority of the functions of the Civil Administration, which will be dissolved, will be transferred to the Palestinians, while Israel will maintain responsibility for overall security.

The draft called for the election of a Palestinian executive council through elections under agreed supervision.

The draft stressed that some legislative powers delegated to the executive council will be subject to agreed principles and should conform with the agreement.

Jurisdiction: The territories are a territorial unit. Authority within the territories will be applied, as appropriate, in accordance with the operational-functional responsibilities.

The draft called for the establishment of a Palestinian police force as a law enforcement organ.

B. The Palestinian plan on a declaration of principles: On 10 May the Palestinian delegation presented a draft "declaration of principles" affirming that the aim of the talks was to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The draft affirmed that the two phases are interlocked.

The draft stressed that the authority of the Palestinian interim government will be established through internationally supervised elections in which all Palestinians registered on 4 June 1967 will participate.

The Palestinian authority will assume legislative, executive, and judicial powers. The powers of the Civil Administration and the military government will be transferred to this authority. Israeli withdrawal will take place in accordance with an agreed timetable and international supervision.

Palestinian land is a single unit and has a single judicial system. Our draft stressed the need of setting up liaison committees to discuss the resolution of disputes, and also called for the formation of arbitration committees.

Palestinian Steps

Upon the Israeli delegation's presentation of its plan and in view of its continued refusal to engage in substantive negotiations and violation of the agreements reached before the talks regarding some steps essential for the talks' progress, the Palestinian leadership decided to reduce the Palestinian negotiating delegation's members from 11 to three, to suspend the work of the land, water, and substance committees, and to concentrate on discussing the "declaration of principles."

The last week of negotiations actually concentrated on discussion of the "declaration of principles" plan. Our delegation presented a full rebuttal to the Israeli plan and considered it to be an extension of the previous Israeli concept of avoiding determination of the talks' aim and terms of reference, trying to separate the two phases, insisting that the final options remain open, dividing the land, and preventing Palestinian jurisdiction over it.

The U.S. Plan

In the last two days of the talks, the United States presented "a joint statement" plan to be issued by the Palestinian and Israeli delegations. Initially, the U.S. Administration refused to hand over to our delegation the proposed text and insisted on doing so during a tripartite meeting with the Israeli delegation. In view of the delicate situation and the available information that the plan had been discussed in detail with Rabin personally, the Palestinian leadership rejected the tripartite meeting and insisted on receiving the draft before such a meeting. After about a 16-hour delay, the U.S. Administration handed over its proposed draft to our delegation.

The follow-up committee, chaired by brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], held a special meeting at dawn on Thursday, 13 May, to study the proposed draft. Consequently, a memorandum was sent to the cosponsors in which our position on the U.S. plan was spelled out. The memorandum considered "the statement in its different clauses to reflect the Israeli Government's viewpoint," with an intentional omission of Jerusalem and an end to the occupation. Moreover, the statement contradicts the letters of assurances and invitation and President Bush's initiative, in addition to adopting Israeli expressions and terms in full.

The memorandum called on the U.S. side to continue consulting with the two parties in a bid to reach agreement on "a declaration of principles" agreed on by the cosponsors.

Summary

First: It became possible during the ninth round to get acquainted with the new U.S. Administration's concepts on the peace process as well as its means of action. This administration fulfills its role in a very different way from the previous Bush- Baker administration. Coordination with the Israeli side seems to be deeper and more cohesive. This confronts us with a negotiating situation that demands from us further awareness and concentration.

Second: As far as Israel is concerned, it became clear that it is still relying on its old tactics in dealing at the

negotiating table. The Israeli negotiator uses three languages: the first, behind the scenes, which is very generous. The second, at the negotiating table, which is more cautious. The third, on the documents, which is extremely intransigent and hardline.

It became obvious that since the beginning of the second week the Israeli negotiators had hit the brakes on all tracks. Apparently, the reason for this was a major preoccupation with the domestic crisis and the uncertainty of its resolution during that period.

Third: With regard to the papers presented at the negotiating table—the Israeli, Palestinian, and U.S. ones—what is noteworthy is the great convergence between the U.S. and Israeli papers. There were attempts to make those two papers the basis of negotiations, but our position foiled those attempts.

The greatest danger is if we are drawn into discussing such papers at the negotiating table because they will become, should such a thing occur, an alternative to the main negotiating basis, namely, the Madrid invitation, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the letter of assurances, and Bush's initiative.

Fourth: The ninth round also revealed defined and clear signs of the limits of U.S. and Israeli commitment to the promises made during the preparatory stage for the ninth round. The line separating promise from enticement seems delusive. From now on it will not hurt to be wary of the goodwill and credibility of promises. Despite this, some initiatives were realized, such as the repatriation of some old-time deportees and the modification in our favor of the formula of Palestinian representation—Jerusalem. Moreover, there were some political terms which Israel tried to empty of content but was obliged to acknowledge, such as the unity of the land and dealing with the peace process as a single process. We have to work very hard in order to wrest more from Israel.

Fifth: No and yes. At the time, our delegation said no because all the world, including important circles within Israel itself, was convinced that the no was justified and was presented in a considered way out of concern for the success of the peace process. The ball was thrown into the Israeli court. The Israeli press has been almost unanimous that the reason for the lack of sufficient progress in the ninth round was Israeli stinginess in offering initiatives and U.S. negativism in active participation.

Conclusion

All of us must wage a large-scale campaign, the aim of which is to consolidate and activate our position on the issue of human rights. The U.S. Administration, which gained a large number of votes because it advocated human rights, has done nothing worthwhile to stop Israeli maltreatment of the Palestinians. Rather, some administration figures tried to barter a small step on the road to Palestinian human rights with other steps required from us at the negotiating table. Palestinian human rights must be outside the framework of negotiating blackmail. The U.S. Administration must understand this because of the moral, political, and human importance.

The coming stage will be a difficult one for us, but our adherence to the bases of our national and negotiating policy will be the solid wall on which we will rely and through which we will prevent attempts at containment, deception, and extortion.

'Abd-al-Shafi Comments on Call To Suspend Talks

JN2105143693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 May 93

[Interview with Palestinian chief delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi by 'Umar Zaydani carried within "With the Midday Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side in the bilateral talks, why did you call for the suspension of the peace negotiations yesterday?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I called for the suspension of the negotiations because of the fact that no progress was achieved over the past nine rounds. This is an abnormal situation. There must be something wrong and it must be corrected. It is illogical to attend another round and return without any results.

[Zaydani] However, according to reports from Washington, the U.S. Administration believes that progress was achieved in the ninth round. There is a U.S. delegation—a peace team—which will visit the region. Moreover, as you know, there are ongoing Palestinian-U.S. contacts to reach a joint declaration of principles.

[Abd-al-Shafi] I am not against contacts and continued dialogue with the United States. My call for the suspension of talks is a condition. It is not a boycott of or a dissociation from the peace principle. We, the Palestinian side, are still adhering to the principles of peace and are completely willing to return to the negotiating table if the credibility of the peace process is rectified.

If the U.S. side wants to hold more contacts with the Palestinian side, then I welcome that, hoping to achieve something that would give this process the necessary credibility to achieve progress in the negotiations.

[Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, last night Edward Djerejian said that time will not be wasted on the issue of whether or not to return to the next round of bilateral talks, in which case the United States will draw its own conclusions. I believe that this statement is addressed to the Palestinian side.

['Abd-al-Shafi] I am sorry that, through this statement, Djerejian wants to address the issue in this manner. It means that the United States, which is the peace cosponsor and is supposed to be neutral, wants to impose

its own opinion. I am only asking the negotiating parties to commit themselves to the terms of reference of peace represented by Resolution 242, which clearly states that other people's territory cannot be seized by force and stipulates withdrawal within the framework of a peace agreement.

Israel, so far, is not committed to this. Its continued settlement in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, contradicts with the agreed-upon principle that any act which could affect negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories is impermissible. Settlement is an issue that could affect these negotiations the most.

There is, as I described before, an existing flaw in the Israeli stand: I call on Djerejian to refer to the bases of the negotiating process and its terms of reference. The U.S. cosponsor should, before anything else, be responsible for maintaining a credible and sound peace process on the correct path.

[Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, there is no doubt that the situation in the occupied territories constitutes a heavy burden on Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip because of the security siege. The solution, according to Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, is to make quicker progress in the negotiations so that the Palestinians would assume control in the territories. Meanwhile, you are calling for the suspension of the negotiations.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Perhaps my statement is being misunderstood. We want the transfer of authority to the transitional government, provided Israel stops creating new facts on the ground that contradict the peace process. If Israel shows commitment and stops the settlement process, it will find that we will deal with the Israeli proposal on the transfer of authority in various fields with complete seriousness and flexibility.

[Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, thank you very much.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

Al-Husayni Criticizes Call

NC2105192793 Paris AFP in English 1911 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Tunis, May 21 (AFP)—Chief Palestinian negotiator Faysal al-Husayni on Friday [21 May] criticized the head of the peace team, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, for calling for the suspension of negotiations with Israel.

"None of the Palestinian delegates has the right to take a decision on resuming or suspending the negotiations," al-Husayni told AFP.

'Abd-al-Shafi "expressed his own personal view" and there "is no change" in the Palestinian position to continue with the peace process, al-Husayni added.

The head of the Palestinian peace team told a press conference Thursday in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip: "I believe that the negotiations should be suspended because I think that at the present stage they cannot progress."

At the last round of negotiations, which ended May 13 in Washington, the Israelis and the Palestinians failed to draw up a joint "declaration of principles" in the search for peace despite U.S. mediation.

'Arafat Comments on Peace Talks, U.S. Paper

NC2305070093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 23 May 93

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Your Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat: Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Arafat] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] After the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, and after the presentation of papers by the Palestinians and the Israelis and the emergence of a U.S. paper to reconcile the two, could you explain the current Palestinian position in light of the outcome of the ninth round?

['Arafat] I am glad and eager to speak about this subject, especially since there has been much talk about it, sometimes positive and sometimes negative. But we are used to telling all facts to our masses and kinsfolk at both the national and pan-Arab levels. The Israelis presented what they called a non-paper [preceding word in English]. That is, they did not adopt the paper. Before that, we had offered a paper that we called a declaration of principles. Our paper was based on President Bush's plan, which calls for exchanging territory for peace, implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338—meaning withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Jerusalem—attaining the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, and achieving security for all peoples in the region. Our paper also was based on the letter of assurances and the letter of invitation. It was on the basis of all this that we went to the Madrid conference.

Now concerning the Israeli paper, it avoided mention of any of the points stressed in President Bush's plan, the letter of assurances, or the invitation letter. This means the paper actually was devoid of content.

The Americans intervened on the last day, proposing a joint statement. We had clearly said that we were ready to discuss anything with the Americans, especially since they had told us they would always discuss with us the issue of Israeli settlements and any change on the ground—an issue that is very sensitive to us. We told the

Americans: You are welcome to discussions, but you should not have offered the proposed statement to the Israelis before you presented it to us. The Israelis announced through various means that they had received the U.S. paper 18 hours before we received it. The Americans and Israelis discussed the paper before it was presented to us. We, therefore, took a position. We said we were ready to discuss all papers with the Americans and the Israelis, but not a U.S.-Israeli paper prepared in advance. As you know, this was our position, and we are still in touch with the U.S. Administration to prepare a declaration of principles as we proposed it. Such a declaration is needed so that the negotiations can proceed on firm and clear bases in accordance with the principles of the Madrid conference.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Could you tell us about the contents of the U.S. paper and the Palestinian objections?

['Arafat] I will give you two main points: First, the U.S. paper does not mention Jerusalem. For Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, and Christians, Jerusalem constitutes a red line. Second, the paper makes absolutely no mention of the Israeli settlements. Moreover, it does not mention an Israeli withdrawal in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 338. These are the three main points to which the paper does not refer.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] So this paper was prepared in coordination with the Israelis?

['Arafat] No. It was discussed with the Israelis, which is a violation. When a U.S. paper is offered, it should be presented directly to the two sides at the same time—whether Palestinian- Israeli, Syrian-Israeli, Jordanian-Israeli, or Lebanese-Israeli. It should not be discussed with a certain side to the exclusion of the other, or discussed briefly with one side and extensively with the other.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Have you replied to the U.S. paper?

['Arafat] We said we are ready to discuss with the Americans anything that leads to continuing the peace process and achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region—one that takes into consideration the interests of all sides. At the same time, we said we were ready to discuss with the Americans a declaration of principles on which the next rounds of talks can be based.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Your Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat: Recent Israeli statements conflict with the Arab position on Jerusalem. The U.S. paper also fails to mention Jerusalem, as you said. Can you clarify the question of Jerusalem and the Palestinian and Arab stance in this regard?

['Arafat] We adhere to international legitimacy. All UN resolutions—605, 607, 681, 729, 465, and others—clearly point out the need for Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem. Some Security Council resolutions generally call for withdrawal from Jerusalem. A few days ago, Rabin said he does not want to negotiate with the PLO because it is claiming Jerusalem. But can any Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, or Christian not claim Jerusalem?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. 'Arafat, there are reports that a meeting will take place soon between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi. Is this true?

['Arafat] As a matter of fact, we heard the same report you did. There are rumors that occasionally circulate as the peace talks continue. So far, we know nothing about this.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What about reports that a meeting will take place between you and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin?

['Arafat] First, you may know that I challenged Rabin and told him I am ready to meet with him. I asked him to come to talk and make peace. With whom shall I make peace? With my enemies? Can I make peace with my friends? I want to make peace with my enemies. Rabin is trying as hard as he can... [changes thought] I said to an Israeli journalist during a news conference in Vienna that I am prepared to conclude with Rabin a peace between brave people, such as the one between Charles de Gaulle and the Algerians. If the Israelis have no one like de Gaulle, let us look for someone like de Klerk, who reached agreement with Nelson Mandela.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The current situation in the occupied Arab territories, specifically in the Gaza Strip and the West bank, is worsening daily as a result of Israeli violations of the Palestinian people's rights. What about the Palestinian, Arab, and international moves to save the Palestinian people from the serious violations committed by the occupation forces?

['Arafat] I would like to note the Israeli human rights committee's report. The report said that this month was the bloodiest yet and that more children were killed than during any previous month. The report also noted that more houses were demolished or boarded up; more areas were sealed off and Jerusalem was closed to Palestinians. The Christian sects in Palestine were prevented from going the Church of the Holy Sepulcher on Easter. This church has never before been closed to Christians or anyone else. The Israeli occupation forces closed this church to my beloved brothers of the Christian sects at Easter. These continued crimes starkly violate the Geneva convention on human rights. These practices abuse the rights of Palestinians, our children and women, and sanctities—let alone the uprooting of trees and preventing people from going to work. The Palestinians are losing $5 million daily in addition to the already difficult economic situation they are suffering under Israeli occupation. There is starvation in the Gaza Strip. According to the UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency], there is real starvation in Gaza. The world is doing nothing. Do I not have the right to say that international legitimacy has double standards? It has one

that goes against the Palestinians and Arabs and another that favors Israel. Is it not realistic to say this?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You will visit Cairo shortly to meet with your brother President Husni Mubarak. I would like to ask you about the extent of Egyptian-Palestinian coordination.

['Arafat] Our brothers in Egypt, foremost of whom is my brother President Husni Mubarak, are full partners in the peace process. We consult with President Mubarak in every detail. Do not forget that two of the experts advising our delegation—and we are proud of these experts—are from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. They are our advisers in the negotiating process. They have made visible and important contributions to all of the papers submitted by the Palestinian delegation. My continued meetings with President Mubarak deal with our ideas, views, and problems at all levels.

['Abd-al-Aziz] We thank you, Mr. President, and always welcome you on the Voice of the Arabs.

['Arafat] I thank you and my beloved people in Egypt. God loves those who fight for His cause. God willing, we will pray together in Jerusalem.

'Ashrawi Comments on Gaza First, Saudi Aid

TA2405084393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 24 May 93

[Report on telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by Razi Barqay "this morning" on the "It's All Talk" program; 'Ashrawi's remarks in English—recorded]

[Text] [Barqay] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi says she does not fear for her life. I am not being threatened or pressured, she says. There is legitimate opposition in the Palestinian street, just as there is in the Israeli street. You Israelis, however, continue to carry out a policy of one step forward and two steps back—for example, Yitzhaq Rabin's hint in the cabinet session about the notion of Gaza first.

['Ashrawi] Well, again, this is symptomatic of an Israeli approach or the methodology with which we are in disagreement. We are against fragmentation or division, whether it is of the land or whether it is of the negotiating process or the subjects to be discussed. We are here involved in a comprehensive settlement, and a comprehensive settlement that should treat the territories as one integral unit and not as smaller units capable of different treatment and different divisions.

[Barqay] You are dividing our territory, 'Ashrawi says. While we are talking about territorial integrity of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, you first cut off East Jerusalem and then try to cut off the Gaza Strip. We are not interested in partial agreements; we want only an agreement about all the territories, she says.

['Ashrawi] Yes, I think that in a sense it demonstrates that they think of Gaza as a more difficult area to control, and it has no ideological bias or bearing. But the West Bank and Jerusalem have an ideological bias and have more settlements and settlers. Therefore, they would get rid of the more difficult area to control and the easier ideologically, and then deal with the West Bank and Jerusalem differently.

[Barqay] It is difficult for Israel to control Gaza, and that is why you came up with the notion of Gaza first, 'Ashrawi asserts. Also, you have less ideological motives to hold on to the Gaza Strip. You are trying to separate Gaza from the West Bank, but it will not work, she notes.

I ask 'Ashrawi whether it is true that Saudi Arabia refuses to send money to the PLO and to the territories and that this is actually one of the main reasons for the impasse in the talks in Washington. That is between us and them, she replies; it is none of your business.

['Ashrawi] No, there has always been....[changes thought] From the beginning and since the Gulf war, we have been trying to heal the rift with all the Arab countries and not just with the Saudi Arabians, and we have discussed with the Saudis the issue of resuming financial assistance to the occupied territories. There hasn't been an official request to resume assistance to the PLO. The PLO has given its acceptance or its blessings to the resumption of direct assistance to the occupied territories, and this is something that is still in the making. As you known, Faysal al- Husayni met with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and talked about the resumption of this type of assistance, and this is still being looked into. The main obstacle to negotiations was not the Saudi money or not. As I said, that's a subject bilateral issue that has nothing to do with the Israelis.

[Barqay translates the above and continues] To what extent do your rejectionist organizations affect the process, and do you feel that you have a mandate at all to conduct talks, we ask her.

['Ashrawi] We have always had our opposition. We have managed to take decisions democratically, according to the majority decision, on the peace process. Now, of course, there is increased skepticism. It doesn't mean that there is a split. This means that within the ranks, even of those who are supportive of the peace process, there is increased doubt that the gap is bridgeable or that Israel is serious about the peace process, especially when it takes unilateral actions.

[Barqay translates the above and continues] 'Ashrawi recalls the issue of the deportees, which has not yet been solved; the closure; the violation of civil rights; and East Jerusalem. Israel has not made any concessions or shown any goodwill. That is not the way to conduct talks, she says. I tell her that each time before the beginning of a new round of talks they present new conditions and threaten not to go back to Washington. She replies: You know what? Fulfill the old conditions you promised, and we will go back without any problem.

'Arafat Says National Unity Will Wreck Israeli 'Plots'

LD2205185793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] The brother president, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has stressed that Palestinian national unity is the solid rock on which all plots of the Israeli occupation will be wrecked, and all attempts to infiltrate this genuine unity and the Palestinian conscience will be smashed.

This came in an address that brother President Abu-'Ammar gave by telephone to the sons of the Palestinian people at Bayt Laham University, while celebrating the victory of the Youth Movement and its allies within the Palestinian Liberation Organization's block, in the elections of the Student Council's administration held on 19 May.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar also said that our Palestinian strength is in this democracy, where the majority respects the opinion of the minority and the minority follows the opinion of the majority. This democracy is the fortress that protects the march of the Palestinian revolution and protects the march of the Intifadah from all the plots and hurricanes by which they attempt to strike at the will of the Palestinian people.

Brother Abu-'Ammar added that this giant Intifadah—within which everybody is embracing everybody—will set the ground ablaze under the feet of the invading, usurping enemy, who is daily offending children, women, and the sanctities.

Brother Abu-'Ammar stressed in his address that the Palestinian people are fighting on all fronts: diplomatic, media, political, and the militant. The pride of this struggling Palestinian people, he said, is in the fact that, while they negotiate, they set the ground ablaze under the feet of the invaders with this unyielding resistance, in order to create the new dawn and the new victory.

Brother Abu-'Ammar stressed that Rabin is deluding himself if he is betting on his ability—through the division of the land and the isolation of holy Jerusalem, and through oppression, crimes, and the demolishing of homes and starvation—to strike at the will of the Palestinian people, because the people have made the decision that the revolution and the Intifadah will continue wave after wave until a Palestinian child raises the Palestinian flag over the walls of Jerusalem, the minerates of Jerusalem, and the churches of Jerusalem—the capital of the state of Palestine.

Palestinian Delegation Leaves for Tokyo Talks

TA2005173693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 May 93 pp 1, 15

[By Da'ud Kuttab]

[Text] The occupied territories' delegation to the multilateral peace conference on the environment is leaving this morning to Japan to participate in the conference's meeting, which will be held in Tokyo on 24 May.

Delegation head Dr. Jad Ishaq said that the Palestinian delegation will demand that restrictions on Palestinian participation be lifted, that priority be given to the ecological situation in the occupied territories, and that it be placed on equal footing with the other states in the region by strengthening Palestinian institutions and supplying them with equipment and material.

Muhammad Salim Ashtiyah, Muhammad Sa'id 'Idy, and Yusuf Abu-Safiyah will participate in the occupied territories' delegation. They will be joined from outside the territories by Mahmud Rabati and Musa Abu-Gharibah. Ahmad Quray', head of the PLO Economic and Planning Department, will guide the delegation's work.

Algeria

Death Sentences Urged in Airport Bombing Case

LD2205195393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Regarding the case of those accused of causing an explosion at Houari Boumedienne Airport, APS has reported that the prosecutor general at the Algiers judicial council this afternoon asked for the death sentence to be passed against 15 defendants. He also called for five terms of life imprisonment and other prison terms ranging from five to 20 years.

Oran Court Passes Sentence in Tlemcen Attacks Case

LD2305190693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 23 May 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Oran special court gave its verdict today in the case of the two failed attacks on three policemen in Tlemcen [on 14 March]. Benlarbi Abdelkader, Ghozali Boumedienne, and Benghazi Mohamed, the main protagonists, were all given 20 years imprisonment. Ghazouli Hocine, a member of the group, received a five-year sentence. The other accused were all acquitted. [passage omitted]

National Conference To Prepare for Transitional Period

LD2305202793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] The Higher State Council met under the chairmanship of Ali Kafi today. The council discussed ways of organizing forthcoming meetings with political parties and associations.

This dialogue, which will start on 25 May, will make it possible to clarify ways and means of handling the transitional period. This important stage of the dialogue will [word indistinct] prepare the foundations for national consensus, which will be defined during a national conference grouping all the partners in the dialogue.

RCD Not Participating in Second Round of Dialogue

LD2405093893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] The Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] announced this evening that it will not participate in the second round of dialogue so that it may not appear to be supporting what is contrary to its democratic and republican doctrines.

Egypt

Al-Baz Leaves for U.S. To Discuss Peace Process

NC2205060193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left Cairo for Washington yesterday evening on a five-day visit.

In a predeparture statement, Dr. al-Baz stated that he will discuss with U.S. officials the peace march and ways to overcome the existing obstacles, particularly those obstructing the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Dr. al-Baz added that he will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and a number of White House officials, noting that the 10th round of peace negotiations is expected to begin during the first half of June.

Dr. al-Baz pointed out that Egypt is making efforts at various levels, including his visit to the United States, and that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa sent a message to his Israeli counterpart two days ago and met with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas in Cairo. He added that the cordon states' foreign ministers are expected to hold a meeting in the same context.

Dr. al-Baz emphasized the need to set up a confederation between the Palestinians and Jordanians, because this will help greatly in establishing the Palestinian state.

AL-AHRAM on U.S. Officials' Remarks on Talks

NC2405054393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has described U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's threat that his country will withdraw from the Arab-Israeli talks because it cannot work alone, as Christopher put it, as valid, but as somewhat inaccurate in examining the situation. Generalizing such matters is no longer useful, particularly after it has become clear Israel is dragging its feet.

In a commentary in tomorrow's edition, the paper points out that the Arab parties have ceased complaining about the Israeli actions and calling for the need to force Israel to get to the heart of the issues. The paper adds that as far as the Arab parties are concerned, the issues are clear; what is needed is to implement the provisions of the UN Security Council resolutions and the principle of land for peace, which has become the law. The paper notes that Israel is demanding a peace tailored to its wishes and parceled according to the land from which it wants to withdraw.

The paper expresses regret over the statement made by another U.S. official, the assistant U.S. national security adviser, in which he revealed—perhaps unintentionally—some of the covert U.S. bias on the issue of

withdrawal when he said that the United States cooperates and supports Israel because it cannot withdraw unless it has security. The paper says that this is exactly what Israel has said. It has been claiming for years that its security depends on what it has carved out of the Arab territory.

The paper says in conclusion that issues, consciences, and minds in the international community were resolved to the fact long ago that the genuine rights of all the parties, including Israel's security, can only be achieved by restoring the full rights—that is, all the usurped territories—with all the complete guarantees.

Mubarak on Government Reshuffle, Terrorism, Iran

NC2405053393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 23 May 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has announced that the changes in the government and National Democratic Party [NDP] will take place at the same time after July. In statements to Samir Rajab, chief editor of MAYU newspaper, mouthpiece of the NDP, which will be published tomorrow, President Mubarak said these changes will not necessarily take place in July itself, but could take place at any time after. He noted that the changes will involve new people who will bring new ideas, views, and methods consistent with the coming stage and the plan they will present.

President Mubarak described the economic reform program in Egypt as the subject of world appreciation and admiration. He emphasized that had the reforms not started in time, we would have faced tremendous problems. We would have needed billions of dollars to buy our basic needs and would not have found anyone to grant us facilities or offer us loans. [passage omitted]

Regarding the recent terrorist operations in Egypt, President Mubarak affirmed that the state is now containing terrorism from all its planning, financing, and operational aspects. The president also affirmed that confronting terrorism is the responsibility of all the people, who should not hesitate to stand courageously against those who try to harm their lives, security, and economy.

Regarding the Middle East peace issue, President Mubarak affirmed that there is no alternative to a peaceful solution to the problem. This will guarantee stability and security for all the peoples in the region. He also affirmed that the decision in the end will be a Palestinian decision, and we do not impose a certain view on anyone and do not interfere in the affairs of others.

President Mubarak said that Egypt's relations with all the countries of the world—apart from one or two—are good. This includes the United States. He said that relations with the United States are witnessing continuous development.

President Mubarak said that Egypt welcomes the restoration of relations with Iran to what they were before, provided there is no interference in our internal affairs. He noted that he informed Tehran of this not long ago, but nevertheless they continue to attack Egypt.

President Mubarak denied at the end of his statements that he recently made a secret visit to Israel, and asked: Suppose I made such a visit. Would it be possible to keep it secret?

Mubarak's Right To Refer Cases to Military Court Upheld

NC2305170493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)—The State Council's Supreme Administrative Court, presided over by Counselor Muhammad al-Jamal, today ruled that President Mubarak is entitled to refer any crime to the military judiciary under a state of emergency.

The court noted that the president exercises this right to guard the homeland's and the citizens' peace and in accordance with his responsibility toward safeguarding the state's social structure and the citizens' well-being. It asserted that anything else would be in violation of the principles established by the Supreme Court.

In the details of its ruling, the court pointed out that the ruling of the administrative judiciary, which the Supreme Court annulled, violated the rudimentary rules for interpreting military court laws and that the State Council's law binds all courts operating within its jurisdiction with the principles the Supreme Court decides and prevents these courts from violating them.

Reacting to certain defendants' claims about the unconstitutionality of the military court and the state of emergency, the Supreme Administrative Court pointed out that the laws pertaining to these two points were submitted to the court and that they spelled out the powers authorized to the president of the Republic, as stipulated by Articles 73 and 74 of the Constitution, to face up to the dangers undermining the homeland's and the citizens' security inside and outside the country. [passage omitted]

Bomb Explodes in Northern Cairo Suburb 21 May

NC2105154393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1527 GMT 21 May 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—An explosion took place at a bus station in al-Qulali area, near Cairo's northern neighborhood of Shubra, this afternoon. The blast burned a private car and shrapnel from the blast hit one of the buses that happened to be passing by, killing a 10-year-old girl and wounding seven others. The explosion also caused damage to two cars parked nearby and left a deep crater at the scene of the blast.

The explosion also shattered the windows of a Civil Registration office affiliated to al-Azbakiyah police station. The wounded were taken to the nearby Red Crescent Hospital to be treated. Leading security officials from the Ministry of Interior and the criminal laboratory immediately moved to the scene of the incident. [passage omitted]

The criminal laboratory experts discovered that the blast was caused by an explosive device weighing around 750 grams of TNT that was planted inside a white Peugeot 304 car with al-Daqahliyah private license plate number 4192. They said that the device was connected to a timer and that the car was parked behind the al-Azbakiyah police station in front of the Civil Registration office near the bus station that serves the al-Qulali area.

The Interior Ministry's criminal investigation officers examined the car and contacted the al-Daqahliyah traffic police to obtain the name of the owner who is now being interrogated to check his links to the incident.

The security organs arrested a person at the site of the incident who was suspected of being involved. He is now undergoing interrogation to ascertain whether he has any links to the perpetrators. [passage omitted]

Eyewitnesses reported that while the car was burning, they heard another explosion believed to be caused by the petrol tank of the car which was completely destroyed by fire.

Major General Mansur 'Isawi, assistant interior minister and Cairo security director, and senior security officials went to the site of the incident. A meeting was held inside the al-Azbakiyah police station with the criminal investigation and police officers to review the situation and follow up the investigation in an attempt to apprehend the perpetrators.

Source Says Three Killed, 15 Wounded

NC2105184993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] A responsible security source has stated: At approximately 1650 today, an explosive charge, planted by unknown people inside a parked car outside Building Seven behind the al- Azbakiyah Police station in al-Ta'awun Street, went off killing three people, including a 10-year-old girl, and causing various injuries to 15 citizens. The explosion caused damage to two cars parked nearby and a left deep crater under the car. A large quantity of flying dust and debris shattered the windows of a Civil Registration office in the area.

The wounded were taken to the Red Crescent and Bulaq hospitals where they are receiving treatment while the security forces surround the site of the explosion. Criminal Investigation officials have gone to the site and the investigation began immediately to discover the culprits.

High-Level Team To Investigate

NC2105205593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Major General Hilmi Salih, first assistant minister of the interior, announced this evening that a high-level search team from the Public Security Directorate, the state security investigations, and Interior Ministry investigations has been formed to identify the perpetrators of the explosion that occurred behind the al-Azbakiyah Police Station this afternoon and to arrest them as soon as possible.

The criminal laboratory men immediately went to examine the site of the incident and determine how the explosion occurred. A responsible security source said that after a thorough check, it the number of wounded is 17 and there are three dead. The casualties have been taken to the Red Crescent, Railroad, and Bulaq al-Dakrur hospitals and three were taken to al-Ma'adi Hospital.

The security forces surrounded the site of the explosion and al- Azbakiyah prosecution examined the damage. Minister of Interior Major General Hasan al-Alfi, the director of Cairo security, and ministry officials visited the scene.

Death Toll Rises to Six

NC2205114293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1116 GMT 22 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—The number of victims in yesterday's terrorist explosion in the al-Qulali area north of Cairo has risen to six after two of those injured died following surgery. [passage omitted]

Police Arrest 50 'Militants'

NC2205120793 Paris AFP in English 1114 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 22 (AFP)—Egyptian police have arrested 50 suspected Islamic militants after six people were killed and 17 others wounded in a car bombing in downtown Cairo, according to the latest toll issued Saturday [22 May] by hospital and police sources.

Egyptian authorities said that 50 Muslim militants had been arrested in various Cairo neighborhoods, four of them suspected of involvement in the Friday bombing outside a police station.

The owner of the booby-trapped car, identified by police as a professor at al-Azhar University was also being questioned by authorities, the police said.

The police believe the car was stolen by the assailants.

Sayyid Raslan Ahmad, the 15-year-old brother of a 10-year old girl who was killed in the attack, died Saturday of wounds he sustained.

Another casualty, Hani Fadil, also died of his wounds at the Red Crescent hospital near the site of the explosion, while a six-year- old child also wounded in the blast was still in critical condition.

General Mansur al-'Isawi, the director of security in Cairo province, told AFP on Saturday that "operations committed by terrorists had entered a serious stage.

"This attack proves that the terrorists are targeting not only the police but the population as well," he said, calling on Egyptians to help the security services in combatting the "terrorists" in a veiled reference to Moslem fundamentalists.

The blast, which wrecked a passing bus, was one of the deadliest attacks in the capital since the fundamentalist al-Jama'ah al- Islamiyah [Islamic Group] group launched a violent campaign in March of last year aimed at overthrowing President Husni Mubarak's secular government.

It came on the eve of the resumption of the trial of 14 suspects, four of whom are on the run, accused of attacks on tourists and an assassination attempt against the information minister.

Bombing Seen as 'Warning Signal'

NC2205134993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 22 May 93

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Terrorism Has Shown Its Ugly Face"]

[Text] Day after day it becomes clear to the Egyptian people the real goals behind the terrorist operations carried out by a minority acting against the law and the deep-rooted traditions of the noble and religious Egyptian people. They are: Sabotage and destruction, murdering children and innocent people, undermining the national economy, obstructing the march of economic reform and the easing of the people's suffering, causing chaos and instability at home, and instilling panic in the hearts of people with the aim of terrifying them and imposing the views of this deviant minority by force on the Egyptian people. Naturally, all these goals serve one ultimate and primary objective; namely, to seize power by force and terrorism and appoint themselves as guardians of the Egyptian people and their destiny.

Terrorism, trying to hide behind the garb of religion, bared its ugly face before the entire Egyptian people after yesterday's criminal act in Cairo. The criminals, who have lost all feeling, placed a bomb under a car to detonate it in a public place where innocent people pass by while going about their business. As a result, a number of innocent people were killed guilty of having committed no crime except that they happened to be passing by this booby-trapped car. Innocent children, women, and men were martyred at the hands of these treacherous terrorist gangs that harbor ill will toward the Egyptian people, their security, stability, and the atmosphere of democracy they enjoy, unlike many Third World countries.

An examination of this criminal act shows the blindness of terrorism, which makes no difference between a child, a woman, or an elderly man when it comes to achieving its mean, criminal goals. It shows that the evil of this minority, hired to cause harm to the innocent Muslim Egyptian people, will not spare anybody if it were left free to wreak havoc in the country. Even those who try to justify and defend such terrorist actions will be burned by the flames of terrorism, even if they imagined they would be left unhurt.

This is why President Mubarak has emphasized on several occasions the need to confront the criminal phenomenon of terrorism and those behind it, regardless of the allegations and slogans they hide behind. He also underlined the need to confront the outside powers hostile to the Egyptian people that back, finance, and arm these criminal gangs, chief among them, naturally, being the Iranian regime, which has distorted the image of Islam worldwide, and their agents in Sudan, who shelter and train these terrorists in special camps. In the meantime, Mubarak stressed that the march of democracy will continue, as he pointed out in his recent meeting with African journalists, when he noted that terrorism does not scare democracy, because it is the only guarantee for the people of Egypt, the birthplace of al-Azhar and the minaret of Islam worldwide. If so, Egypt does not need to import Islam from the rulers of Tehran.

Yesterday's incident must serve as a clear warning signal to all Egyptians that they are targeted by these outlaws, who try to impose themselves and their fanatic beliefs by force. Thus, it is the responsibility of the entire Egyptian people to confront these criminals, who are not targeting a specific individual or institution, but Egypt, the Egyptian people, and Egypt's measures to overcome the economic crisis, provide jobs for the unemployed, and create a better tomorrow for future generations. So, shall we leave all these accomplishments at the mercy of a few hired outlaws that took the advantage of a democratic atmosphere to threaten the security of an entire people?

What is certain is that we are all capable of confronting terrorism if the leadership, the government, the people, the parties, and the associations put their heads together to face up to and confront these terrorists. This is exactly what happened in the past two months following the bombings and attacks against tourists. Yesterday's car bomb explosion shows the bankruptcy of these terrorist gangs, which are now turning their weapons against defenseless civilians. It is as if they are punishing the citizens for standing beside and responding to the police in confronting them and handing them to the authorities.

The blood of the civilian martyrs will not be in vain. The criminals will receive due punishment for what their

sinful hands have committed, and Egypt will always be an oasis of peace, security, democracy, and stability.

Death Toll Rises; Lab Report Released

NC2205162293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1528 GMT 22 May 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—The death toll in the explosion in Cairo's al-Qulali area has risen to seven, after six- year-old child Muhammad Hasan succumbed to his wounds today. He suffered from ruptures in several parts of his body caused by flying shrapnel, which put him in a coma. He was taken from the Red Crescent hospital to al-Qasr al-'Ayni hospital to undergo surgery in a desperate attempt to save his life.

As for those wounded in the car bomb explosion, Bulaq Hospital director Dr. Samir 'Abd-al-'Aziz has stated that the three being treated there are stable. [passage omitted] The condition of the three persons being treated at al-Sikkah al-Hadid hospital is reassuring and they are expected to be released within a week. [passage omitted]

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1425 GMT on 22 May adds: "A report released by the Interior Ministry's criminal laboratory on yesterday's explosion in Cairo's al-Qulali area has revealed that the blast was caused by a locally manufactured explosive device. The bomb, consisting of between one and half to two kg of highly explosive substance, most likely TNT, was placed inside a parked car."]

Security Officials Comment

NC2205163993 Paris AFP in English 1617 GMT 22 May 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, May 22 (AFP)—Seven people have been killed in Egypt's first car bomb since Muslim fundamentalists launched a campaign to overthrow the government one year ago and police Saturday said it arrested 50 suspects. [passage omitted]

It was the first car bomb in Egypt since the fundamentalist campaign was launched, a security official who declined to be identified told AFP. Previous attacks had involved hand-carried bombs.

"Operations committed by terrorists have entered a serious stage," General Mansur al-'Isawi, the director of security in Cairo province, meanwhile told AFP.

"This attack proves that the terrorists are targeting not only the police but the population as well," he said, referring to Muslim extremists. Al-'Isawi urged the Egyptian people to help the authorities combat terrorists.

Sources close to the security services believe the bombing marks the start of a new fundamentalist offensive against the government.

A crackdown against the fundamentalist has dealt them a severe blow but also forced the militants to reorganize, a security official said. [passage omitted]

University Professor Said Target

NC2305122193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1134 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)—The Cairo newspaper AL-MASA' has cited a responsible security source as saying that the terrorists who planted the car bomb near al-Azbakiyah Police Station in Cairo targeted the car's owner, Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-'Aziz, a professor of principles of religion at al-Azhar University. The source said that in all his mosque sermons, the professor had been ferociously assailing the terrorists and exposing their false claims, which are far from the spirit of religion. The source noted that the terrorist groups were hunting him down and had called for killing him.

The source said that Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz had been delivering Friday sermons at several mosques in al-Mansurah, Suez, and al-Jizah. He said that last Friday, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz left his car near the police station in al-Azbakiyah and went to al-Mansurah by bus. The source said that when Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz returned from al-Mansurah approximately one hour later than usual, he found his car bombed. He proceeded to the police station and notified security officials that he owned the car.

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz' thesis for his masters degree rejected the ideology of the Renunciation and Repudiation Group.

Explosive Devices Defused in Metro, Outside School

NC2305140393 Paris AFP in English 1328 GMT 23 May 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, May 23 (AFP)—Disposal experts defused a bomb in a Cairo metro station as well as three others in northern Egypt on Saturday, a day after a car bomb killed seven people and wounded 20 in the capital, police said Sunday.

The explosives were stuffed in an anti-bug spray canister placed on the tracks of al-Marj station in northern Cairo.

Bomb experts said the device, described as "very powerful," was ready to explode but detected in time by a metro worker.

In the coastal city of Damietta, 200 kilometers (125 miles) northeast of Cairo, bomb experts defused three devices outside a school, police said. [passage omitted]

Two arms workshops were also discovered over the weekend in the village of al-Fashn, 160 kilometers (100 miles) south of Cairo. Police accused the owners of manufacturing weapons for Muslim militants.

Gunmen Kill Policeman Near Asyut, Flee

NC2105164093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Asyut, 21 May (MENA)—Two unidentified people shot and killed Warrant Officer Taha 'Abdallah 'Ali, a policeman working with the Bani Sumay' police force in the Abu Tij district, Asyut Governorate, in full sight of pedestrians. The deceased was returning home when the two unidentified men showed up with their automatic weapons, sprayed him with bullets, and ran away. Police forces arrived at the scene of the incident and the Abu Tij prosecutor began an investigation.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Says West Behind Terrorism in Arab Countries

LD2405103993 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0940 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 24 May, (JANA)—Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the revolution, attended a ceremony at al-Fatih University during which he was awarded a doctorate. The ceremony was attended by more than 1,000 teachers. [passage omitted]

The brother leader of the revolution stressed that the West is behind terrorism in the Arab homeland. He said it is responsible for it and is protecting its leaderships in an overt and official way. It is financing it and pointing an accusing finger at us. The leader further said: "If Iran is behind this [terrorism] then it is carrying out the orders of the West, and if Sudan is behind what is happening in Egypt, then Sudan is implementing the orders of the West too." He said that the Arab regime [singular as received] from the Ocean to the Gulf is beginning to pay the price of the policies of banning the literature of revolution and pan-Arabism, and those hostile to jamahiri thought, the Green Book, the Red Book [as received] and Nasirism throughout the past years, which gave a big chance to the reactionary yellow books to bring about what is happening now. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Union of Administrators

Delivers Speech

LD2305014393

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 2006 GMT on 22 May begins broadcasting the first part of a recorded report on a meeting between Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the general union of administrators during which al-Qadhdhafi delivers a speech.

The focal point of al-Qadhdhafi's address is the condition of employees in the Jamahiriyah who complained in a series of union papers over the years of being underpaid, of being accused of corruption and nepotism.

Al-Qadhdhafi begins his address by saying that the Jamahiriyah's system of government is "unconventional" because it gives power to the people. Countries which depended on military might, oppressive police systems, and regular armies, like those practised by Iran's former Shah and Zaire to govern their people, were collapsing.

Security and defense are collective issues implemented in the Jamahiriyah, al-Qadhdhafi says. He praises the Jamahiriyah's independent judicial system whereby defendants are entitled to a just trial and their choice of defense lawyers is not determined by whether they are rich or poor, unlike other systems of government, al-Qadhdhafi says.

He continues by saying that employees, as conventionally viewed, belong to the same category as the regular army, of lawyers who could be appointed if one had money. Crucial changes need to be introduced in the "classical" employee sector, allowing workers to become partners in businesses in order to give them incentive to produce, to care, and to be loyal, he says. Oppressive methods like tear gas or punishment used against employees who go on strike to demand better conditions should be stopped and will lead nowhere in the long run. Today, employees around the world feel they are working hard but are getting little in return apart from filling someone else's pockets, al-Qadhdhafi says.

Al-Qadhdhafi goes on to read some complaints by employees which are excerpts from a pile of back issues of the Libyan "employee's paper." In response to a call by one employee for a revolution to clean up and modernize administration and management, al-Qadhdhafi says that this cannot be done, and that the "disease" cannot be eliminated. The case of employers is similar to milk which is conducive to growing bacteria, al-Qadhdhafi states.

He goes on to say that the system needs a "surgical operation" and that there is no operation without blood or temporary pain. If one fears and avoids surgery, although it is necessary, that person could die, he says. The employee system has to be freed, just as the police state has been removed, al-Qadhdhafi states. He says: "I tell you to start beginning this year, beginning now, to move in a serious and responsible way in the employees sector, to exploit the media and put under your disposal all the Jamahiriyah's means, at the top of which is the media, all the media, and to mobilize yourselves to leave this area which has become rotten, a hell, and lacks dignity."

Workers are partners in businesses, al-Qadhdhafi says. Employees should be the same, and their employment should be accomplished through "popular alternation," as is the popular defense. Work should be done for the entire Jamahiriyalha and proceeds divided, al-Qadhdhafi states.

Al-Qadhdhafi urges the establishment of efficient hospitals, run by and owned by many doctors rather than monopolized by one, to take the load off nonpaying general hospitals which do not keep records, and to give Libyans the treatment they currently seek abroad, which is expensive. Al-Qadhdhafi questions why such hospitals could not be set up in Libya; because Libyans are prepared to pay and did elsewhere, they can do so in their own country without burdening themselves and going abroad. The wealth would remain and be divided among Libyans, al-Qadhdhafi states.

Further on Meeting

LD2305215093

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1954 GMT on 23 May carries the second part of a recording of a meeting between Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and members of the general union of administrators.

Following some initial remarks by al-Qadhdhafi, the program consists chiefly of an exchange of views between al-Qadhdhafi and members of the delegation of administration trade unionists present. The discussion centers on the desirability of freeing civil servants from the situation of salary earners and encouraging them to look for private work for a living. To begin with, al-Qadhdhafi stresses that civil servants should not expect pay rises as this would fuel inflation. Participants, including al-Qadhdhafi, agree that in the era of the Jamahiriyah, administration as such should finally come to an end. Examples are given of public companies that are suffering various problems, hence the need for private ownership and initiative. Al-Qadhdhafi says that the word poor is unacceptable in Libya. When the income from oil is distributed directly, as is hoped, to citizens, then the rich will be made to pay more taxes, he says. Equality will then prevail, he asserts.

Part of the discussion is devoted to a proposal that there should be more higher educational institutions providing vocational training, to counteract the prevailing tendency toward a proliferation of institutions for the academic study of subjects such as economics.

Al-Qadhdhafi Phones Egypt's Mubarak on Arab Issues

NC2105210793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, made a telephone call to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this evening. They exchanged views on the latest developments in some Arab issues concerning the two countries.

Sudan

Government Meets With Unified Faction in Nairobi

AB2405063193 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Peace negotiations between the government delegation and that of the unified faction of the rebel movement opened in Nairobi on 22 May. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Daniel Kuot, former governor of Upper Nile, the oldest member of either delegation, and was held in the presence of the Sudanese ambassador in Nairobi.

The opening session was addressed by Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir, the leader of the government delegation. He praised the efforts of the Kenyan Government towards facilitating matters for the delegation attending the negotiations. Mr. al-Tahir gave an account of the efforts of the government and the southerners in Sudan to achieve peace in the country.

His excellency stressed the government's concern and seriousness to bring about a comprehensive peace, referring to the reciprocity of the negotiations with the united faction and the peace talks in Abuja with Garang's wing. Mr. al-Tahir said the delegation had come to the negotiations fully mandated and with open minds and hearts for the sake of peace.

The session was addressed by Dr. Lam Akol, the leader of the united faction's delegation, stressing his group's seriousness towards achieving peace. He said they had not entered into the (?whirlpool) of the agreements with the alliance, unlike Garang's group which had based its programs and moves under agreement with the alliance and the sectarian parties which had been fighting the rebel movement.

Mr. Lam Akol went on to ask whether the parties that had allied themselves with Garang had any new policies, in view of the fact that those were the parties he had been fighting against three years ago. He stated that his delegation was fully mandated by the faction's leaders, saying the members of his delegation were serious in their efforts to bring about peace and wished to alleviate the suffering of the ordinary citizens in the South. Dr. Lam Akol called on the government delegation to make the serious efforts needed to ensure that the negotiations succeeded.

The government delegation includes Fadl al-Sid Abu-Qusaysah, the delegation's official spokesman; Deng (Farkik); Mrs. Agnes Lokudo; Colonel Mahjub (?Sharfi); and Musa Ali Sulayman. SUNA has learned that the government delegation during the first session submitted a (?proposal) on a comprehensive solution. The other side requested to be given the opportunity to study the government's proposals so that these could be eruditely discussed. It was agreed that the negotiations be resumed on 26 May.

Al-Bashir on Egypt, Iran, Terror Allegations

NC2405093593 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 17 May 93 pp 31-33

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, by Ghassan Bin-Jiddu in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] [Bin-Jiddu] Let us start with a recent event, that is, what you described as a plot involving local and foreign parties to bring down the regime. You also accused a Lebanese party of being involved in it. Was this not merely a political card used to take a stronger stand in the "Abuja" talks and tighten security inside the country?

[Al-Bashir] Our announcement and discovery of the plot had nothing to do with either domestic or foreign reasons, because we have no need to consider such things. The fact is that this plot involved Sudanese parties that were brought in and trained by Egyptian intelligence organs that specialize in this kind of work. Some of these Sudanese parties had already been trained in Lebanon by the Communist Action Organization [CAO]. I am telling you the confessions as they were made. The public and open trial of the defendants will show the world whether what we are saying is true. According to the confessions we have obtained, elements were trained in certain apartments in Cairo. There is evidence to prove this because the members of the so-called Sudanese opposition are in Cairo, conduct their activities there, and are recognized by and meet with official authorities there.

It appears that the elements whose plot recently was discovered were trained in Egypt to carry out sabotage acts after having received preliminary training two years ago in Beirut. The Sudanese Communist Party coordinated between all these parties. The denial by the CAO, this small and leftist organization, does not negate its involvement in the plot. Of course, this has nothing to do with the Lebanese Government or people, whom we believe to be taking a principled stand on our basic cause—the continuing war in our country's south.

We are aware of the unique situation in Lebanon. When we say that there is a pro-Israel army in Lebanon, this does not mean that it expresses the stand of the government or people. We laud the recent positive developments in the Lebanese arena regarding the achievement of peace, security, stability, and overcoming the past ordeal. Therefore, this question cannot harm our bilateral relations.

[Bin-Jiddu] But it is possible that these confessions that you are talking about were obtained under torture, especially as Sudan stands accused of violating human rights under your rule.

[Al-Bashir] I confirm to you that we followed and monitored the movements of the scheming elements in Lebanon, Egypt, and Sudan for two years. We opted to foil and expose all its elements when the plot was complete. Therefore, we did not need to practice any form of torture to obtain information to corroborate the evidence, that is, if we suppose for the sake of argument that we practice torture or violate human rights as some claim. While I do not want to open the file of those who are killing their citizens in the streets in front of everyone or those who are sanctioning the killing and deportation of the Palestinian people, I stress that there are no more than 30 political detainees in Sudan's prisons. All the sons of the Sudanese people are enjoying their citizenship rights and there is no ethnic or religious discrimination. The so-called human rights violations in our country are in fact a mere excuse for legalizing the siege of Sudan and isolating it from the world.

[Bin-Jiddu] When you talk about an international blockade, don't you believe that it will be applied to Sudan because of Sudan's insistence on implementing Islamic shari'ah, and therefore why is this theme not abandoned and its implementation postponed until regional and international circumstances allow it?

[Al-Bashir] We do not believe that abandoning the application of Islamic shari'ah will give us a considerable benefit and it will not even win the world's respect for us. The evidence of this is that the Arab regimes that gave up all Arab and Islamic principles, recognized Israel, and are cooperating and allying themselves with it, have not gained the West's respect.

The West will continue to view us as a traditional and historical enemy. We will gain nothing from relinquishing the shari'ah, because he who seeks people's satisfaction by causing God's indignation loses everything. Besides, we believe that our existence is originally linked to the implementation of this shari'ah. Therefore, it is a matter of principle for us and abandoning it means the death of the idea. It is better for us to die in the cause of that principle and we are ready for that.

[Bin-Jiddu] I'm sorry, Mr. President, but I imagine myself in front of a man from the Islamic Front speaking about the Islamic shari'ah. Do you still refuse to associate yourself with this Front?

[Al-Bashir] No, this does not concern the Islamic Front alone, rather it concerns all Muslims in Sudan. Let me remind you of the slogans of the parties which ruled the country before we came to power. The Ummah Party advocated "an Islamic constitution", the al- Mirghani-led Democratic Unionist Party raised the "Islamic republic" slogan, and the Islamic Front called for applying Islamic shari'ah. The people elected these parties which represented an absolute majority in the parliament at the time on the grounds of these Islamic principles. Thus, the Islamic Front cannot be regarded as the spokesman for Islam or as monopolizing the Islamic theme even for the sake of argument.

As for what is said about our and the regime's link with the Front, it is a false impression and time has come for it to be removed completely from some people's minds.

About leadership of the revolution, from the first day we took power we envisaged that the parties era was bad and we saw nothing from this era except anarchy, instability, and social disorder, and we held all the parties responsible without exception.

On the other hand, we expressed our readiness to cooperate with anyone who supports the revolution. As a leadership emanating from the nation's grass roots, our conception of this nation's Arab and Islamic identity prompted us to accept the application of the Islamic principles in our system and laws. This required us to search for every competent individual who believes in the Islamic project. Most of these competent people formerly belonged to the Islamic Front. In fact, we were not surprised by this fact, because in the latest parliamentary elections, the Front acquired 100 percent of the seats allocated to the university graduates. This means that the majority of cadres and educated people are from the Front's supporters. However, our leadership now comprises various factions, although I do not deny that the Front members constitute a majority in some of the state institutions for the reasons I have mentioned.

[Bin-Jiddu] But Hasan al-Turabi carries out his activities freely, while al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is not active and 'Uthman al-Mirghani is in exile.

[Al-Bashir] The last person mentioned in not in exile. We have never exiled anyone. He left Sudan with a diplomatic passport for medial treatment and did not return. He is in fact active in opposition circles. As for al-Mahdi and other Sudanese citizens, we have never banned anyone from cooperating with us and conducting their political activity within the state's establishments. That is what al-Turabi and his supporters have done. They have embraced the revolution and contributed to the success of our program. Do you want me to fight someone who has expressed his willingness to cooperate?

[Bin-Jiddu] Let us move to the issue of Islamic shari'ah. How can the war in the south end and peace be established they way you want in a multi-religious country?

[Al-Bashir] The ongoing war in the south is being depicted incorrectly—namely as one between Muslims and Christians. The truth is that local, regional, and international factors have created this problem and are now feeding it. It has nothing to do with the communal structure that characterizes Sudan. As for the application of Islamic shari'ah, it is confined to the northern provinces, which have a Muslim majority. Christians in these provinces are not subject to the shari'ah, but are bound only by the Christian civil status laws. Islamic laws concern only Muslims. As for the south, which comprises three provinces that enjoy federal rule, it is exempted from Islamic shari'ah because Muslims and Christians there are a minority. The animists constitute the majority. Additionally, Christians, like other Sudanese citizens, have the full right to participate in all the state's establishments. There are Christians in our Revolutionary Command Council, and a number of them have several ministerial responsibilities, including the minister of state for foreign affairs, Archbishop "Jur" [not further identified].

[Bin-Jiddu] It appears that your relations with Egypt have reached a dangerous level of deterioration, as each side is accusing the other of seeking to destabilize it. How could this relationship end? For example, could war break out?

[Al-Bashir] We hope these relations will not deteriorate further, but their improvement depends on the behavior of the Egyptian authorities. We are using all means and resorting to all initiatives to rectify this relationship and make it one of coexistence despite our differences. The last initiative was taken in the wake of the earthquake that hit Egypt. (Vice Chairman) Major General al-Zubayr visited Egypt to offer condolences and present symbolic aid from the Sudanese people. The visit took place when relations were reaching the peak of their deterioration and was meant to show that Sudan harbors only affection for the Egyptian people and seeks to coexist with the Egyptian Government. Relations should have improved after this visit, but the recent plot, the discovery of which we just announced, cannot encourage any improvement in relations. The fact is that we are standing at a crossroads. The Egyptian Government must resort to reason, and we believe that any talk of rebuilding this relationship depends on actions and deeds, not on good words or ornate statements.

[Bin-Jiddu] But the Egyptian Government affirms that it has evidence that there is Sudanese-Iranian coordination to harm Egyptian interests.

[Al-Bashir] The Egyptian Government says so, but it has never been able to confirm it or convince any world country that this is true. These are only claims similar to previous allegations. We have heard the Egyptian president say that there are Iranian missiles in Port Sudan and in east Sudan. Where are these missiles? It has been proven to the world that these remarks were a fib. We also heard about terrorist camps. We, however, challenged them to prove it. We will be ready to open all doors for any investigator to see that there are no terrorist camps. Has anyone proven that there are camps? No.

If, for the sake of argument, we wish to have an Iranian presence here, this would be quite difficult because we are not a country neighboring Iran and would be difficult for Iran to cross all this distance to conspire with Sudan against Egypt. But the fact is that Egypt has dispatched troops to Hala'ib and is occupying it. We did not react to this. We said that we will never open fire at Egypt. We fought alongside Egypt in 1967 and also in the war of attrition. This issue is not our top priority. Our top priority is to confront the racist crusades in the south.

[Bin-Jiddu] Does this mean that when you are through with the problem in the south you will transfer your troops to the north?

[Al-Bashir] We said that we will not open fire at the Egyptian Army. We did not even respond to the treacherous killing of the two Sudanese soldiers by the Egyptians in April 1992. We have firm principles and we will continue to uphold these principles, God willing.

[Bin-Jiddu] Do you expect foreign military intervention, particularly by the United States, in the south under any pretext?

[Al-Bashir] We know that regional and international pressures are being brought to bear on the southerners to foil the negotiations and find a political solution to the south problem. We also know that some people will encourage foreign intervention on the pretext of halting the war or giving aid and delivering relief supplies. But we do not believe that the United States will intervene militarily. This will be a risk and a great adventure. Perhaps any intervention like this will expose the others' hostile plans against us.

We have been declaring our stand before the world. We want coexistence and Islam can coexist with the others. This kind of regime cannot be described as an isolationist regime. We are the target of hostile plans. However, if matters reach the extent of military intervention, we will put up tough resistance and struggle, God willing.

Opposition Calls For Overthrow of al-Bashir

NC2205185893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—The Sudanese opposition in Cairo has reiterated that there will be no peace in Sudan without the participation of all the political forces in the peace negotiations, which would enable the country to ride out its current crisis.

Colonel 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid, member of the Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces, called for finding a sort of regional coordination to overthrow the present Sudanese regime, which is working against the interests of the Sudanese people. Meanwhile, Siddiq Bulad, member of the al-Ummah Party central committee, has said that Sudan's problems are numerous, complicated, and too difficult to be solved. He pointed out that the only key to solving the differences over the form of rule is to hold a national constitutional conference with the aim of setting up a democratic constitution that realizes all the Sudanese people's aspirations.

Bulad said that Sudan's affairs do not concern 'Umar al-Bashir because he does not possess legitimate power. He is trying to distract attention from domestic problems, Bulad added. He noted that the Sudanese regime's attempt to involve Israel in the Hala'ib issue or in the conflict in southern Sudan is only aimed at making the Arab countries change their stand on this regime's policies and at alleviating the political and economic blockade imposed on it.

In his statement, Bulad said that the Sudanese regime is trying to convince the citizens that there is a problem. Bulad said that this regime's attempts are empty claims aimed at declaring general mobilization and finding an excuse to attack Egypt. He affirmed, however, that there is not a single Sudanese who will fight Egypt.

Abu-Salih on Relations With Egypt, Iran

PM2105111693 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 21 May 93 pp 30, 31

[Interview with Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Ajjaj] In a recent statement you said that Egyptian-Sudanese relations were not as good as one could possibly wish. Why? And who is responsible?

[Abu-Salih] Certainly the level which relations with Egypt—which is an Islamic, African, and Arab neighbor—have reached pleases no one in Egypt or Sudan. This is why our policy has always stressed the need to work to develop Arab relations. We are for clearing the Arab air and creating a suitable ground for Arab solidarity. This is why we praised King Hassan II's initiative. I visited Morocco recently and delivered a message to the Moroccan monarch from Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir. We appreciate these efforts and this initiative, on the grounds that they are a refuge and hope for the Arab nation in the delicate circumstances it is experiencing. When we talk about Arab solidarity Egypt is in the forefront. This is why relations should be developed. What is happening now is the result of misunderstanding or false information which may have been blown out of proportion. Thus there is a need to sit down and hold a dialogue if a suitable method is available and not to resort to violence at all. All this could eliminate all the causes of the dispute. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] Do you not believe that Sudan's seeking to expand the circle of the dispute from the bilateral framework with Egypt to an international and Arab framework was a departure from the method adopted in the past?

[Abu-Salih] If I wanted to raise the dispute at the Arab League level, I would have raised it at the Arab foreign ministers' meeting. As for the memorandums sent to the Security Council, their aim is to recall previous memorandums which have been at the council since 1958. I speak as a representative of the Sudanese Government. We believe that the matter can be resolved easily if there is goodwill and if a sound and correct atmosphere is available.

['Ajjaj] By what means and how can it be resolved easily?

[Abu-Salih] What led to the tension and stirred up the problems should be eliminated, and the matter should be raised at the negotiating table. I discussed the way to do that with brother [Egyptian Foreign Minister] 'Amr Musa. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] You said that [the dispute over] Hala'ib is the symptom of a disease. Do you not believe that the main disease results from sheltering terrorists and the existence of camps for them in Khartoum—and there are Egyptian documents to prove this?

[Abu-Salih] Anyone who accuses us of that should prove it. We talk about a dialogue—which means that we should discuss the matter. They should search Khartoum inch by inch to see for themselves whether there are centers supporting terrorism. Things which sound like myths—like the relationship with Iran and the claim that Sudan is a crossing point for terrorism—all these should be raised for discussion. Evidence must be provided. Things can only be based on realities and facts. We are satisfied that given seriousness, credibility, and a mechanism, we can convince anyone that Sudan can never undermine Egypt's security. Nor can Khartoum adopt terrorism as a policy like the south. I agreed with brother 'Amr to list all these accusations and suspicions and discuss them carefully in order to restore matters to normal between Egypt and Sudan.

['Ajjaj] But the accusations are not made by Egypt only. The Americans said there are six terrorist camps [in Sudan].

[Abu-Salih] That is a lie. They are liars, criminals, and working against Sudan. But they will not be able to harm it. We accept this ferocious onslaught from the United States and the West, but we cannot accept it from our Arab brothers. All that is being said portrays Sudan as though it is a "big power." We entered a dialogue with them but discovered it was futile. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] But there is talk of human rights violations.

[Abu-Salih] The Americans are trying to exploit human rights to interfere in Sudan's affairs, not for any other reason. This is the issue, nothing more and nothing less.

['Ajjaj] But safe zones are expected to be set up.

[Abu-Salih] We reject that, and they cannot do it. Let them try to interfere in Sudan if they want to see a real jihad.

['Ajjaj] Do you believe that your crisis is with the United States only?

[Abu-Salih] Our crisis is with the West as a whole. They are against Islam, and the reason for all that onslaught is our announcement of the application of the Islamic Shari'ah, and this is the first step.

['Ajjaj] Could the Khartoum-Tehran axis be a reason for Sudan's problems?

[Abu-Salih] Our relationship with Iran is normal, just as with any other state—Italy, for example. I do not know the secret behind the exaggeration of that issue and the talk of an axis, an alliance, subservience. We fight subservience and hegemony. We are not willing to be under the domination of superpowers. We are not subservient to anyone. Nor do we export terrorism. And I hope the truth about Sudan will be understood.

['Ajjaj] But Sudan's isolation is increasing. A recent sign is the failure of Al-Bashir's talks in Libya.

[Abu-Salih] Who said they failed? It was agreed to hold a joint meeting and set up a committee to assess integration between the two countries under the chairmanship of 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud and al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih.

['Ajjaj] Do you believe there is a possibility of the Abuja talks succeeding?

[Abu-Salih] We did all that is required of us. We are trying to stop citizens suffering in the south. We announced a cease-fire to persuade the rebels to attend the Abuja meeting. We hold a gun and an olive branch. We have now laid down the gun and are carrying only the olive branch until the negotiations conclude. If they conclude successfully, praise be to God, otherwise things would take another turn. It seems that there some people who do not want the talks to succeed and thus began to talk about their failure even before they started, for their own reason: This seems to be preparation for intervention in southern Sudan. If anyone one tries that, he will see the result. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives With Message for Amir

JN2405101993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0935 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 24 May (WAKH)—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the accompanying delegation arrived in Manama from Doha this morning. He is on a two-day visit to Bahrain as part of a tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

The Iranian minister is carrying a message to Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [passage omitted]

Amir, Prime Minister Confer With PRC Official

JN2205122293 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 22 May 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 22 May (WAKH)—This morning, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister, received Yang Fuchang, PRC vice minister of foreign affairs.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with viewpoints on regional and international issues of mutual interest, in addition to bilateral relations.

Their highnesses the amir and the prime minister of the State of Bahrain expressed their satisfaction with the positive development [words indistinct].

For his part, the Chinese vice foreign minister said that he exchanged with their highnesses viewpoints on issues of mutual concern, and stressed the desire of his country to continue fostering and entrenching relations of friendship and cooperation with the State of Bahrain for the interest and progress of the two peoples. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

'High-Level' Official on Agenda for Talks With Velayati

NC2305095293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0914 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Kuwait, 23 May (MENA)—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will arrive in Kuwait tomorrow on a two-day official visit as part of his tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. He began his tour Tuesday with visits to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, and the United Arab Emirates.

A high-level Kuwaiti diplomatic source told a MENA correspondent in Kuwait that the issue of Gulf security will be high on the agenda of Velayati's talks with Kuwaiti officials, in addition to other issues of common concern. The source stressed Kuwait's interest in establishing balanced ties with the Gulf countries, including Iran, noting that it is a mistake to ignore Iran when discussing the security situation in the Arab Gulf region. The source, who declined to identify himself, said Velayati will relate to Kuwaiti officials Iran's views on its attempts to obtain advanced weapons, an issue that could trigger a regional arms race.

Government Pleased With Border Committee's Work

LD2305155093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1407 GMT 23 May 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 23 May (KUNA)—Kuwait today expressed its deep satisfaction at and appreciation for the completion of the work of the international committee entrusted with the task of delineating Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders. Kuwait also declared its complete adherence to the decisions and results of the committee, the arbitration of which Kuwait and Iraq unconditionally accepted earlier.

This came in a statement by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dukhayl, minister of state for cabinet affairs, following an ordinary session of the Council of Ministers chaired by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers described this achievement as historic for the international organization. It represents a brilliant addition to its successes and a living embodiment of its vital role in underpinning peace and justice in the world, the council said.

Al-Dukhayl also announced that the Council of Ministers has approved Kuwait's contribution of $25 million to the UN peacekeeping fund in expression of Kuwait's belief in the important and vital role played by the international peacekeeping forces in maintaining security and stability in the world's areas of tension, and in support of UN efforts firmly to establish international justice and peace. [passage omitted]

France Ends War Games, Begins Maneuvers With Qatar

AU2205152993 Paris AFP in English 1511 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Kuwait City, May 22 (AFP)—France will participate in its first navy, land and airforce war games with Qatar next week, said a French Army spokesman here on Saturday [22 May] at the end of similar exercises with Kuwait.

The corvette Commandant Bory and the anti-submarine frigate Montcalm, which participated in the Kuwaiti-French exercises, left Kuwait port on Saturday, said Colonel Bernard Deleblanque, adding that the vessels

were en route to Doha port to begin their first ever maneuvers with Qatari troops.

Deleblanque said the landing craft Orage will leave Kuwait on Sunday [23 May] morning following the two other vessels which are carrying about 1,000 navy and army personnel to begin the seven-day manoeuvers in Qatar.

The joint French-Kuwaiti exercises codenamed Pearl of the West were "very successful," the spokesman said.

"Our forces did a good job in all the exercises," Deleblanque told AFP. "The French Army was trained during the desert war games on how to fight in a very hot climate.

"We exchanged experiences with the Kuwaiti Army for the first time since the end of the Gulf war in 1991," he added.

They were the first joint war games involving all three wings of the two countries' armed forces since Paris and Kuwait signed a defense pact in August 1992.

France was part of a 30-member U.S.-led coalition that drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait in February 1991.

The U.S., British and Kuwaiti navies were to begin joint manoeuvres in the northern Gulf on Saturday, the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command said Friday.

The exercises, "Eager Sentry 93-4," will last five days and are aimed at "improving the readiness" of the three navies and their cooperation.

Defense Minister on Revamping Army Command, Russia Visit

LD2305093093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0736 GMT 23 May 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 23 May (KUNA)—Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah, in a press statement published today in Kuwait, has reaffirmed that the Kuwaiti Army's new command structure, which is to be adopted and made public after 'Id al-Adha [3 June], will encompass more than 200 officers and leaders. In his statement to AL-ANBA' he said that the structure includes rotation movement and alteration of posts among the commanders of the army. It also contains many new leading posts—administratively and technically. [passage omitted]

The minister referred to the security agreement that will be signed in Russia, during his visit to that country in August, with the Russian defense minister. He said that some clauses of this agreement include the staging of joint exercises and training courses in which Russian weapons will be used, in addition to the sending of Kuwaiti military missions to Russia, especially from among the land forces. He said there is now a military delegation from the Defense Ministry in Moscow on a visit to acquaint itself with the light and heavy weapons that suit the capabilities and needs of the Kuwaiti Army. The security agreement that will be signed with Russia will be the latest to be signed by Kuwait with the friendly states, the minister said.

He stressed that agreement has not been reached with the Arab states' forces to participate in any joint exercises at the present time. [passage omitted]

For his part Deputy Chief of Staff Major General 'Ali al-Mu'min has denied that Kuwait intends to abandon the purchase of Patriot missiles. He said that these missiles proved their excellent effectiveness in downing Iraqi Scud missiles during the Kuwait liberation war. On the other hand al-Mu'min reaffirmed that the reconstruction of the 'Ali al-Salim and Ahmad al-Jabir airbases will be completed soon and work at the said bases will begin next month.

GCC States Show 'Total Understanding' of Oil Stance

LD2205222893 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli has stated that his visits to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and Qatar have reaffirmed the depth of the fraternal ties that link the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. In a statement to KUNA on his return to the country tonight from Doha, he said that he found total understanding from the foreign ministers of the three fraternal states of Kuwait's stance on its oil production. He added that an agreement has been reached to hold a meeting of the oil ministers of the GCC member states in Geneva prior to the convening of the OPEC ministerial conference scheduled for 8 June.

Oman

Iran's Velayati Discusses Relations With Officials

Meeting With Under Secretary

JN2105145993 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] A session of official talks between the Sultanate and the Islamic Republic of Iran was held in (?the nation's) guest house this morning. The Omani side was led by His Highness Haytham Bin-Tariq Bin-Taymur, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs. The Iranian side was led by His Excellency Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

His Highness Haytham Bin-Tariq said the talks dealt with ways to enhance relations between the two friendly countries. He stressed that the two sides are eager to promote these relations. In a statement to the Omani News Agency after the talks concluded, he said the two sides reviewed several regional issues of mutual interest

as well as developments in the states neighboring Iran, particularly Azerbaijan and Afghanistan.

The talks were attended by Foreign Ministry officials, the Iranian ambassador to the Sultanate, and the delegation accompanying the Iranian foreign minister.

Terms Talks 'Satisfactory'

LD2105181393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed satisfaction with his talks with Saudi and Omani officials and said the visit was a prelude to the expansion of relations between Iran and the Persian Gulf countries.

In a telephone interview in Oman this afternoon IRIB's correspondent asked our country's foreign minister about his views on talks between the Iranian delegation and Omani officials. In reply, Mr. Velayati said:

[Begin recording] In our talks with Omani officials we extensively discussed the expansion of bilateral relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Oman in various spheres, including the political, cultural, and economic fields. Frameworks were set up and suggestions were clearly made in a number of fields, which were approved by the two sides. This includes cooperation in the oil industry, particularly in the common sea territories, where serious steps have not yet been taken. At present there is a political agreement between the two countries and following the new agreement, God willing, our experts in the oil ministries of the two countries will start their technical negotiations.

Following approval of the agreement on air transportation between Iran and Oman by the honorable Majles, we shall soon be seeing the beginning of a fundamental step in the field of air transportation and the establishment of an air link between the two countries. Also, the expansion of cultural and scientific cooperation in various fields was discussed.

As well as bilateral cooperation, the regional exchange of ideas, coordination, and cooperation were also discussed and we hope to be able to take, as before, fundamental steps in this field. [end recording]

Mr. Velayati also said his lengthy talks with King Fahd and Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faysal were positive and constructive. Expressing satisfaction with the result of the meeting, he said the talks in Saudi Arabia were held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere, and with the understandings that were reached we will be seeing the expansion of bilateral cooperation among Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the region.

The foreign minister added that in his talks with the king and officials of Saudi Arabia it was stressed that extensive relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia will benefit the region and the Islamic world.

Delivers Message to Qabus

JN2205150193 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani dealing with bilateral relations and current regional and international issues of common interest. The message was delivered by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who was received by his majesty the sultan at his office in Bahjat al-Anzar farm in Sahara today. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance them in various areas. They also tackled several regional and international issues of interest to both countries. The meeting was attended by His Highness Haytham Bin-Tariq Al Sa'id, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs, and the Iranian ambassador to the sultanate.

His majesty, may God preserve him, also received a letter from His Excellency Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya dealing with cooperation between the two countries, as well as current developments in the Arab arena. The message was delivered by Mohamed Abdrahmane Ould Moine, Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, whom his majesty the sultan received at his office in Bahjat al-Anzar farm today. The talks centered on bilateral relations and ways to enhance them in the service of the two fraternal peoples. They also discussed matters pertaining to Arab solidarity. The meeting was attended by His Highness Haytham Bin-Tariq Al Sa'id, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs.

Qatar

Iran's Foreign Minister Velayati Arrives 23 May

JN2305144193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1352 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Doha, 23 May (WAKH)—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Doha this afternoon for a visit to the State of Qatar as part of a tour of Gulf Cooperation Council members.

On hand to welcome him upon arrival were Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani, chief of protocol Ahmad Jasim al-Mulla and Iranian Ambassador Seyyed Mohammad Baqir Safa'i.

Saudi Arabia

Official Statement on Deaths in Iraqi Refugee Camp Clash

LD2205110593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Riyadh, 22 May 1993 (SPA)—An official Saudi source has made the following statement to the Saudi news agency SPA:

Some Iraqis recently gathered in front of embassies of the servant of the two holy places abroad denouncing the treatment meted out by the competent Saudi authorities to trouble-makers among Iraqi refugees at the Rafha camp on 9 March 1993. These events were reported by the foreign media.

The committee in charge of questioning those who committed the disturbances has completed its work and recorded the admissions by the perpetrators of the crime of burning the educational center in the camp, which led to the death of four Saudi nationals among the teaching staff and guards.

The truth of the matter is that on 9 March 1993 at 1500, refugees gathered in front of the camp gate in Rafha and demonstrated, raising in their hands improvised iron swords and machetes. They began to stone the guards and demanded that the camp command allow a number of Iraqis who had infiltrated the border to join them with their families, knowing that for two years the Kingdom had not accepted refugees from Iraq.

The camp command explained to them that their request will be reported to the competent authorities for consideration. A competent authority approved the admission of the women and children among those infiltrators. This was conveyed to the demonstrators, but they continued to behave violently toward the guards and began to dismantle a nearby fence.

The camp command used water canons to drive them away, but the demonstrators continued with their disturbance and clashed with the guards, raising machetes and pelting them with stones, forcing the guards to fire warning shots in the air.

While this was going on, other refugees demonstrated inside the camp, where the academic teaching center prepared for them, the clinic, and the offices of the Islamic Relief Authority which runs the postal service and holds identity records are situated. One of the refugees, encouraged by his colleagues, hit one of the staff of the educational center and tried to wrest his weapon from him. Another guard tried to prevent this and shot the refugee in the shoulder, which then began to bleed.

The demonstrators at camp gate prevented an ambulance from entering to take him to hospital. The demonstrators near the teaching center stopped one of the center's Saudi teachers who volunteered to take him to hospital in one of the center's vehicles. They started to tamper with the contents of the medical clinic, which was locked, in an attempt to treat him, but he had a hemorrhage and died of his wounds.

A group of refugees carried him on their shoulders among thousands of refugees to incite them to revenge. Hundreds of people gathered and a number of them forced their way into the center and started to break its windows and tamper with its contents. Cars and building were set on fire, including a building containing the center's director, members of the teaching staff, and guards, who had kept away from the refugees in order to prevent further bloodshed. A number of refugees set the building on fire and prevented them from coming out, and as a result, four of the teaching staff and guards were burned.

It was then that the camp command had to use force, fire shots in the air, and make way for fire engines to control the fire. As a result of the fire, three people died, and 17 were wounded, five of whom have since died of their wounds.

The competent authorities initiated an investigation into the incident at the time, and those who participated in the riot and set fire to the university center and its annexes admitted their agitation. They conceded that the purpose of their demonstration had been to force the Saudi authorities to accept the infiltrators who had crossed international borders to head for the camp. Their confessions were taken and legally endorsed at a shari'ah court in Rafha. The case will be looked into by a shari'ah court.

The Kingdom did not make the incident public until investigations had been completed.

While stressing its concern to impose order and security among the refugees inside the camp, which is the reason for this explanation, the Kingdom affirms that the incident has not affected services to the rest of the refugees in the camp, that care for them will continue until they return to their country, and that they will continue to be resettled in countries that agree to take them.

U.S. Envoy Gives Christopher Message to Crown Prince

LD2305121793 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, received at his office in the royal court this afternoon David Walsh, the U.S. charge d'affaires, who conveyed to him a message from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Muhsin Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, the crown prince's adviser.

Human Rights Activist Reportedly Tortured

NC2105145393 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Nicosia, May 21 (AFP)—A member of a newly-formed Saudi human rights group who was arrested last week amid a government crackdown is being "tortured", a London-based independent organisation reported Friday [21 May].

Liberty, which specialises in the defence and promotion of human rights in Muslim countries, said in a statement to AFP that Muhammad al-Mas'ari was "subjected to a special form of torture.

"He is being deprived of sleep," Liberty said quoting a source close to the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) in Saudi Arabia.

Last week the Saudi authorities stripped the committee's seven founding members of their jobs. Four university professors and a civil servant were sacked while two lawyers were barred from practicising.

Al-Mas'ari, one of the seven founders, is a professor of physics at King Sa'ud University and the spokesman for the committee. He is also the son of the group's leader, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Mas'ari.

Contacted by AFP in Riyadh, 'Abdallah al-Mas'ari refused to comment on the report. "He can no longer answer journalists' questions," said a spokesman for the CDLR leader.

Al-Mas'ari was arrested last Saturday by Saudi security forces during a pre-dawn raid on his apartment, his father has said.

A delegation of Saudi university professors, campaigning for the release of al-Mas'ari, meanwhile requested a meeting on Wednesday with Saudi Interior Minister Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz but were turned down, Liberty said.

Last week Prince Nayif denied that Saudi Arabia was holding any political prisoners.

The committee, the formation of which was announced on May 7 by Liberty, has said its objectives were to fight against "oppression and injustice" in Saudi Arabia and secure the release of political prisoners.

Human Rights Founder Resigns; Prince Faults Western Media

NC2405114293 Paris AFP in English 1110 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Nicosia, May 24 (AFP) - One of seven founders of a newly-formed Saudi human rights group has suspended his membership, while a senior Saudi official in comments published Monday slammed Western media for attacking his country.

Saudi Arabia "respects human rights more than the Western countries that attack it on that issue," said Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud cited by the Arab daily AL- HAYAH.

He said the Western media had launched a "hostile" campaign against his country and ignored the Palestinian and Bosnian people whose rights were being violated daily.

Nayif had said on May 15, some days after seven Saudi intellectuals announced the creation of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) in Saudi Arabia, that his country respected human rights and did not detain any political prisoners.

The banned committee said its spokesman, Muhammad al-Mas'ari, was arrested in mid-May.

On Sunday, the London-based Liberty organization, which specializes in the defence and promotion of human rights in Muslim countries, said in a statement to AFP that Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin- Jibrin, a CDLR founder, had suspended his membership of the group.

It said, quoting a source close to the committee, Bin-Jibrin was a senior member of the Supreme Council of Ulema (religious scholars) and an official member of the country's department of legal canon opinion.

The statement said that although the cleric had a "wide base of popular support" and had been delivering well-known sermons for 25 years, he came under enormous pressure from authorities, was banned from teaching and expelled from his job soon after the declaration of CDLR's creation on May 3 was signed.

"However the source stressed that Bin-Jibrin continues to support the CDLR and sympathize with its program," Liberty said.

In July 1992, Bin-Jibrin and another CDLR founder, 'Abdallah al-Mas'ari, signed a memorandum viewed as very critical of the economic, social and political situation in Saudi Arabia.

The message addressed to King Fahd by about 30 religious signatories called for a review of Saudi laws "in a bid to make them conform with shari'ah (Islamic law)" and the abolition of "torture and telephone tapping."

Liberty further said that Saudi police had stormed the publishing and translation office of a committee sympathizer, Shaykh Safr al-Hawali.

Liberty said al-Hawali and Shaykh Salman al-'Awdah, another supporter, had recently been summoned for interrogation in connection with CDLR activities.

"In a new, unprecedented development, the Saudi authorities have according to Liberty's source frozen the charity accounts run by Shaykh Salman al-'Awdah," in a measure aimed at preventing the use of these funds to support the families of CDLR members who were left jobless, it said.

"The authorities have been interfering with the telephone lines of CDLR members since the formation of the committee," it charged.

Liberty said tension dominated Saudi life and that more than 1,000 troops used in controlling the annual pilgrimage to Mecca had been switched to Riyadh "in anticipation of developments."

It said that a dispute had arisen between members of the royal family, with the king and crown prince rejecting repressive measures against the committee while the defense and interior ministers advocated "much harsher and more punitive measures."

Interior Ministry Forbids Leaflet Distribution During Hajj

LD2305205793 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 May 93

[Statement issued by the Interor Ministry; place and date not given]

[Text] The Ministry of Interior announces to the general public that, regarding the beginning of the hajj, and the fact that the guests of God the merciful are busy performing their rites, it is categorically forbidden to distribute leaflets, books, or tapes during the hajj period. Anyone who carries out any of these activities will be brought to account for it and will be subject to severe punishment. This has been released for the general public.

United Arab Emirates

Iran's Velayati Holds 'Friendly' Talks in Abu Dhabi

LD2205203893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 22 May 93

[Excerpt] The Islamic Republic of Iran's high-ranking diplomatic delegation, headed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, arrived in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], on Saturday [22 May] evening, on the third leg of a tour of Persian Gulf littoral countries. The delegation was welcomed by Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, that country's minister of state for foreign affairs.

According to the Central News Unit, talks were held in Abu Dhabi on Saturday night between the two diplomatic delegations headed by their respective foreign ministers. In the talks, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, Shaykh Hamdan welcomed the Iranian delegation, expressed much gratitude for the fact that the invitation to visit the UAE had been acccepted, and expressed the hope that Mr. Velayati's visit to the UAE would prove to be a turning point for the all-encompassing ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the UAE.

The UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs stressed that the fact that such a high-ranking meeting was taking place between the two countries was itself evidence of the expansion and consolidation of ties between the two neighboring Islamic countries.

In the meeting, the two parties explored ways of expanding bilateral ties in various economic, cultural, and political fields. Regional and international issues and issues relating to the world of Islam, especially Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the possibilities of expanding cooperation in these areas were also discussed..

Velayati is to meet Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the head of the UAE, on Sunday to submit a written message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [passage omitted]

Readiness for Talks on Islands

LD2305140293 Tehran IRNA in English 1329 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 23, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] announced their readiness for talks to resolve their differences (including the islands issue), in a press communique issued at the end of a two-day visit by Iran's foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, here. The two sides also underlined the need for both countries to try to preserve peace and security of the region as well as the interests of the two nations.

Velayati paid an official visit to the United Arab Emirates at the invitation of UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan. He also delivered President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message to UAE ruler Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

In his meetings with UAE officials, Velayati also discussed mutual relations and regional as well as international issues. The Iranian foreign minister left here for Doha, the capital of Qatar this afternoon.

Speaker's Comments on Island Dispute Dismissed

NC2205142593 Paris AFP in English 1318 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 22 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Saturday dismissed comments by the speaker of parliament that an island dispute with Iran is a mere misunderstanding, saying it was his "personal view."

Al-Hajj Bin-'Abdallah al-Muhayribi, speaker of the Federal National Council (parliament), last week told a London-based newspaper that the dispute over Abu Musa island was "just a misunderstanding."

"What is between us and Iran is just a misunderstanding caused by persons who do not want us to agree and live in peace," he said in an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper.

"We hope Iran will work to tackle this misunderstanding positively and through a dialogue."

The Emirates news agency WAM, quoting a UAE official, said al-Muhayribi's comments "express only his personal views in accordance with the powers granted to the FNC as prescribed by the interim constitution."

Iran and the UAE are locked in a dispute over the strategic islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb that has hurt their traditionally good relations.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is currently touring the region in a bid to repair ties with the six Arab Gulf monarchies.

He has been to Saudi Arabia and Oman ahead of visits to Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Iranian diplomats in the Gulf said Velayati would also discuss with Gulf leaders regional security arrangements, amid Tehran's insistence to block any role by Syria and Egypt.

Yemen

Council Asks al-'Attas To Form New Government

JN2305135293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] The Presidential Council held a meeting today under its Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, House of Representatives member, attended the meeting.

The Council discussed several topics on its agenda related to the ongoing consultations and arrangements to form a new government. The Council entrusted brother Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas with the formation of a new government in accordance with Article 94 of the Constitution, and in light of the ongoing consultations among the parties that will participate in a national coalition government. The Council also discussed many national, regional, and international issues and developments.

Official on 'Improving' U.S., Gulf Ties, Elections

NC2305081093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Yemeni minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Yemeni-U.S. relations have been improving and flourishing after about two years of tepidity due to the Gulf crisis. He said the success of the Yemeni elections is a new opportunity for good relations between the two countries.

In a statement to AL-'ALAM AL-YAWM newspaper published here today, al-Dali said Yemeni-Gulf relations today are better than they were during the Gulf crisis. We are optimistic that these relations will improve further because of our common principles, he added.

Al-Dali said he expects the next Yemeni Government to be a broad-base coalition among the three main parties in the country: the General People's Congress, the Yemeni Socialist Party, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping. He said this would create the stability Yemen desperately needs.

Government Will Not Accept UN Border Decision

NC2205125493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May (MENA)—A high-level Iraqi source has told the MENA correspondent in Baghdad that Iraq will not accept the UN Security Council's border demarcation decision.

Commenting on the report of the UN committee entrusted with demarcating the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, which was published in New York yesterday, the Iraqi source said that international law gives the two disputant states the right to negotiate either bilaterally or in the presence of the United Nations. He said that this is the first case in modern history in which a border demarcation decision has been made by the UN Security Council. The source added that the problem will remain pending and complicated if the United Nations maintains its anti-Iraqi line, as he put it.

UN Sanctions Committee Stands Protested

JN2205113893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 22 May 93

[Excerpts] New York, 22 May (INA)—Iraq has described the stands of some members states of the UN Sanctions Committee rejecting Iraq's requests as arbitrary, unjust, and ill-intentioned. This came in a message Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf addressed to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. [passage omitted] The following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, New York.

In my message dated 11 May 1993, I appealed to you to intervene in the appropriate manner to tackle and stop the UN Sanctions Committee's negative practices and resolutions that deprive the Iraqi people of their basic needs. Once again, I find myself compelled to address you because the repetition of such practices and resolutions by the Sanctions Committee has become a blatant behavior pursued by some countries represented in this committee in order to peddle their hostile and narrow-minded policies which are contrary to international laws and charters and to the UN Charter.

Your Excellency:

Iraq presented a request to allow the Iraqi Airways to carry approximately 2,000 pilgrims on special flights from Baghdad to Mecca [in Saudi Arabia]. The request came for humanitarian reasons because of the long distance between Iraq and Mecca. The Sanctions Committee, however, rejected the request because of the opposition of the above-mentioned countries. The Committee also rejected another request to assemble all Iraqi planes in Baghdad for maintenance because they have not been operational for more than two years and because they have been greatly damaged due to the lack of maintenance. This is in addition to the detriment to the technical cadres.

The Sanctions Committee's stand vis-a-vis these two requests was arbitrary and unjust; it also intentionally hurt the feelings of all Muslims. The Committee's stand falls within the framework of the tendentious political objectives of these states.

Your Excellency:

What took place in the Sanctions Committee's 92d meeting on 22 April 1993 requires from you a serious stand to be aware of the unjust and arbitrary stands taken against the people of Iraq by these countries which compete to deprive this people of their basic needs under pretexts that dissatisfied many members of the committee itself.

A quick review of the requests the committee rejected at this meeting shows the following:

1. The United States objected to 18 requests.

2. The United Kingdom objected to 12 requests.

3. France objected to five requests.

4. Japan objected to two requests.

In addition to this, the committee suspended and postponed many other requests under different pretexts such as the need to know the final beneficiary, the request to complete some information, the purpose for which the requested material will be used, and other pretexts.

The unjustified and baseless objections by the committee in its recent meeting are a perpetuation of the policy some of its members adopt to harm the entire Iraqi people and deprive them of their most basic human and civil rights. We hold the governments of these countries fully responsible for their violation of international laws and conventions.

Here are other examples of Iraqi requests that were rejected at this meeting:

1. The committee rejected many requests to supply Iraq with cotton textiles. The U.S. and British representatives objected under under the pretext that this material is used in Iraqi industry.

2. The committee rejected several requests to supply private and government companies with Polyethylene under the pretext that it can be used in industry, although the quantities rejected constitute only a minimal portion of Iraq's actual needs. In spite of this, the commitee rejected this request.

3. The commitee rejected several requests to supply Iraqi merchants with quantities of used tires, filters, and glass for cars because the French representative said they can be used in private cars.

4. The committee rejected several requests to supply Iraq with sewing accessories for children's clothes because the U.S. representative said these accessories can be used in Iraqi industry.

5. The committee rejected several requests to supply Iraq with material to make bedcovers because the U.S. and french representatives said such material can be used in Iraqi industry.

6. The committee rejected several requests to supply Iraqi merchants with quantities of glue because the U.S. and British representatives said it can be used in Iraqi industry.

Your Excellency, the practices of these countries which use the Sanctions Committee as a cover are political stands that are hostile to Iraq and the proud Iraqi people. They are stands that have nothing to do with the principles of international legitimacy and the UN charter, particularly the principle of justice and equity.

Concluding, I once again call on Your Excellency to exert efforts to halt these practises which conflict with all human considerations, and with the principles of justice and equity. I also hope this document will be distributed as an official UN Security Council document.

Your Excellency, please accept our deepest appreciation.

Regime Said Hiding Missile Equipment West of Mosul

NC2305163693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] The Iraqi regime has hidden quantities of spare parts and missile-related equipment in Tall 'Afar west of Mosul. Reliable sources say the regime aims to scatter this equipment lest it be discovered by UN inspectors. UN resolutions call for the destruction of such equipment.

Shelling of Northern Kurdish Villages Reported

NC2105164593 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] The forces of tyrant Saddam Husayn shelled four Kurdish villages in the area designated as a safe haven in northern Iraq. The shelling is a part of the provocation by the regime against the Kurdish areas situated north of the 36th parallel. The aim of the provocations is to gauge the response they generate and prepare for a large attack on the said area.

An Iraqi Kurdish official says that the villages that were shelled are situated in wheat and barley fields and that the regime plans to attack these villages to seize the crops grown there.

Kurdistan Delegation Visits Iran

NC2305165593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] A delegation from the Kurdistan region government paid a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran last week to discuss the recent border skirmishes. In an interview with the KURDISTANI NEWS AGENCY [wakalat al-anba' al-kurdistaniyah] Qadir Jabari, head of the delegation and minister of justice in the Kurdistan region, said the two sides discussed the border problems and reached an agreement on reopening all border points as of Saturday, 22 May, and on halting the shelling of border villages inside Iraqi Kurdistan. The two sides also decided to safeguard security and stability on the border and to halt hostile media activity.

This is the first visit by officials from the Kurdistan region government to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Talabani Says Region May Use Syrian, Turkish Currency

NC2205193493 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has warned that the Kurds may resort to using the Syrian or Turkish currency to fill the vacuum resulting from Iraq's decision to withdraw the 25-dinar banknotes printed abroad. His remarks came in an exclusive interview with MBC correspondent Tawfiq Jazulit.

[Begin recording] [Talabani, in progress]...was compelled to adopt measures, such as recording these banknotes in regional banks or branches of Iraqi banks located in the region and thinking of a way out. As you know, it is a must to have a currency in circulation so that the market can operate. There are two possibilities: Either to set up a private bank, such as the Bank of Scotland in Britain, where we could issue Iraqi dinars, or to rely on the use of a currency from a neighboring country. We have asked the Syrian brothers to allow the Syrian currency to be circulated in the region and we have asked Turkish friends the same thing.

[Jazulit] Does the UN decision to pull out its guards from Iraqi Kurdistan concern the Kurdish leadership?

[Talabani] Pulling these guards from the region has a psychological effect only, no other effect, on the people. We know that there are indeed financial difficulties and we suggest cutting down the number of guards, since their presence is for observation. Thus, a reduced number could...[Talabani cut off] [end recording]

Barzani, Talabani Cite Western Assurances for Kurds

NC2105155893 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Mas'ud Barzani [leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party] and Jalal Talabani [secretary general of the

Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] have said that the United States, the United Kingdom, and France have pledged continued support to the Iraqi Kurds and promised to extend the duration of the air force protection given to the Kurdish areas in northern Iraq.

In a press interview published today, the two Iraqi Kurdish leaders said that they obtained assurances to this effect during their meeting on Wednesday, 19 May, with French President Francois Mitterrand, as well as in their recent exchanges with Washington and London.

Talabani said that the embargo placed by the United Nations on Iraq because of the aggressive policy of the tyrant Saddam Husayn will continue. Talabani added that the Iraqi Kurds will present revised lists of their needs to the United Nations.

The two Iraqi Kurdish leaders said that they called on Western countries to use Iraqi frozen funds to compensate the Iraqi Kurds for the losses they incurred due to the decision of the ostracized tyrant to annul the 25-dinar notes.

Oil Installations Blown Up; Officers Assassinated

NC2105174093 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] A revolutionary opposition group blew up the main oil transport station near al-Zubayr Bridge, igniting a fire in the station for two days.

The paper AL-MU'TAMAR [The Congress], which is published by the Unified Iraqi National Congress, yesterday reported that another revolutionary group blew up two oil wells in the al-Qurnah area. It added that a revolutionary group assassinated the official in charge of the military center, al-Basrah branch, in [word indistinct]. Another group carried out the people's sentence against Lieutenant Colonel Abu-Ritil al-Rawi and his driver en route from al-Samawah to [word indistinct]. Criminal al-Rawi had a [word indistinct] criminal role in [word indistinct] during and after the uprising there, when he executed several youths who took part in the uprising and buried them in mass graves.

The paper also reported that Muhammad Jasim al-Zubaydi from al-Qurnah area was assassinated by opposition fighters because he was one of the influential elements in the party's apparatus in al-Qurnah Province in al-Basrah Governorate. He played an effective role in suppressing the heroic uprising.

Army Units Attacked by Islamic Resistance Forces

LD2105205093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Iraq's Islamic resistance forces have inflicted heavy damage on the 95th Brigade and artillery units of the 4th Army in an attack on their positions in the al-Amarah marshlands.

According to the Revolutionary Iraq Radio [Radio Iraq-e Enqelabi], in their operations a few days ago and using semi-heavy weapons and mortars the Islamic resistance forces killed or wounded a number of the Iraqi military forces.

Three long-range artillery pieces, one ammunition depot, and three Iraqi Army vehicles were destroyed in the operations, according to the report.

International Satellite TV To Start in 1993

JN2205155193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA)—During the last quarter of this year, Iraq will begin television transmission of the "Iraq International Television" station, which will cover countries of the region and more than 35 Asian and European countries.

Engineering and technical sources at the Ministry of Culture and Information told INA that Iraqi cadres will intensify their efforts to start the experimental transmission, hopefully in September this year, after completing procedures to reach agreement with parties in charge of the satellites that provide television services to the region and Europe.

The sources indicated that contacts are in progress to lease a television channel via the European satellite "EutelSat", which was established in Paris in 1977 and covers Europe and several other countries. Contacts are also in progress with "Arabsat" to obtain another channel via the "al-Jisr" [The Bridge] satellite, which is leased from Canada, for use by Iraq International Television.

The engineering and technical cadres said efforts are being intensified to select various Iraqi programs reflecting Iraq's civilization and progress and highlighting its comprehensive awakening in various fields via 24-hour daily television transmission throughout the year.

The sources indicated that to watch the Iraqi programs, which will be a combination of good taste, culture, and arts, Arab and European viewers will be able to use normal international reception equipment in their homes.

Rabin Ready To Implement Settlement in Gaza First

TA2305150893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 May 93

[Studio discussion by moderators Mikha Friedman and Pnina Bat-Tzvi and political correspondent Natan Gutman—live]

[Excerpt] [Bat-Tzvi] The prime minister said in today's cabinet meeting that if an interim settlement is reached with the Palestinians, he will be prepared to implement it in the Gaza Strip first. Our correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Gutman] An especially long cabinet meeting was mostly devoted to the economic repercussions of the closure on the territories, but prior to that debate, a short political debate was held in which Prime Minister Rabin clarified something that might prove very important. Prime Minister Rabin said: In reference to questions about Gaza first, any arrangement has to be achieved through negotiations in Washington, but when an agreement in principle is reached on an interim arrangement, I do not see any reason why it cannot be implemented first in Gaza. To repeat the key words: an agreement in principle, an interim agreement, Gaza first. Does that denote a readiness to implement autonomy in Gaza first? Rabin did not go into detail and did not explain at which stage it would be done, but the message from the Prime Minister's Office was clear and blunt and is probably making its way right now over the air waves to Tunis.

[Friedman] Natan, is that a new development, or is it a retreat from the government's earlier position, which referred to implementing autonomy in all the territories of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip?

[Gutman] The question is what is meant by agreement in principle on the interim arrangements. That might mean that once an agreement in principle is achieved it can be implemented in Gaza first. We should recall that Yasir 'Arafat said, in a meeting with the Austrian chancellor, that he would not oppose Gaza first. The chancellor arrives in Israel in two weeks, and Rabin releases that declaration. Everything looks too well planned.

Most of the cabinet debate was, however, devoted to the closure on the territories, which is creating problems among the Palestinians and among us, Rabin said. The prime minister said that a basic solution cannot be achieved because it would cost billions of dollars, so we have to act within certain confines. However, since we are a military government, we have responsibility for the territories. The cabinet decided today to allocate 30 million shekels to create 20,000 jobs in the territories in the next two months. It was also decided to make it easier to cross into Israel for health, education, and business purposes and for access to holy places, which will go into effect gradually. The government did not decide to increase the number of permits for work in Israel. [passage omitted]

Proposal Follows Secret Palestinian Messages

TA2405105293 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 May 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Moti Bassok]

[Excerpts] Yesterday Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin expressed for the first time Israel's readiness to agree to the implementation of the interim accords with the Palestinians in "Gaza first," after first reaching what he called "an agreement in principle" regarding the self-government at the negotiations in Washington.

Officials at the prime minister's bureau said last night that Rabin's statement is of great significance and is meant as a signal to the Palestinians and an attempt to promote the political negotiations.

Officials in Jerusalem believe that Rabin's declaration came against the background of secret messages sent to the prime minister's bureau by Palestinian elements, according to which the Palestinians are interested in examining the possibility of implementing an arrangement in Gaza first. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem officials also emphasized Rabin's use of the term "agreement in principle" on an interim arrangement. The officials said that this constitutes a signal that Israel would be willing to settle for a comprehensive declaration of principles regarding interim arrangements in all the territories, which would be immediately followed by detailed negotiations on the transfer of authority to the Gaza Strip.

In the opinion of numerous political sources in Israel, it will prove much easier to implement the interim accord in the Gaza Strip than in the West Bank, because of the far smaller number of Jews living there, the possibility of establishing contiguous Palestinian rule, and the general consensus in the Israeli public regarding the need to "get rid" of the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Contigency Plan Denied

TA2405042093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] At this point, Israel has no contingency plan whatsoever to implement autonomy in Gaza first, senior sources in Jerusalem said. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht points out that the prime minister is keeping the message on this issue vague in order to signal to the Palestinians that if they show willingness to make progress toward the formulation of a joint document of principles, any idea they raise will not be rejected out of hand. Mr. Rabin stated in yesterday's cabinet session that once an agreement in principle on the nature of the interim arrangement is reached, there will be no impediment to implementing it in Gaza first.

Likud's Qatzav Supports Rabin

TA2405111193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Likud faction chairman Moshe Qatzav has announced that he supports Prime Minister Rabin's remarks in yesterday's cabinet session that once an agreement in principle on the nature of the autonomy is attained, it could first be implemented in Gaza.

Labor faction chairman Eli Dayan said that if Palestinian self-rule institutions are elected in Gaza, a permanent arrangement that obviates the five-year interim period could be discussed with them. Dayan added that the Labor faction will soon hold a debate on autonomy in Gaza first.

'Arafat Bid for Recognition Seen

TA2305051493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Sources in Jerusalem said that Yasir 'Arafat's proposal to take control of the Gaza Strip would not be raised for discussion because it constituted a transparent attempt by the PLO in Tunis to win recognition.

Sources at the prime minister's bureau refused to issue any official reaction to the proposal; however, senior officials told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that Israel was sticking to the Madrid formula, according to which the negotiations were being held with a Palestinian delegation from the territories.

'Abd-al-Shafi Reacts

TA2405073693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 May 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Yosi Torpstein, and the HA'ARETZ Washington correspondent]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated yesterday that when an agreement in principle on the establishment of self-government in the territories is attained, he will have no objection to implementing it in the Gaza Strip first. He made these remarks in the cabinet session, in reply to a minister who queried him about Yasir 'Arafat's proposal that the PLO take over control of Gaza. [passage omitted]

Reacting to Rabin's comments, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said yesterday that it is still early to talk about the implementation of an interim arrangement in Gaza first. In his opinion, the fate of the Gaza Strip must be linked to that of the West Bank. 'Abd-al-Shafi noted that when an interim arrangement on Palestinian rule during the transition period is attained for both areas, arrangements for a phased Israeli withdrawal based on a timetable can be discussed. He said the possibility of an agreement between the two sides to implement the first stage in the Gaza Strip should not be ruled out.

Furthermore, he noted, if a situation evolves where the Palestinian self-government is not yet ready to assume control over the Gaza Strip, the Palestinians may ask Egypt or Jordan to send troops to the Gaza Strip to maintain order and security until the government is established. He noted that the question of an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza has not yet come up in the discussions in Washington. According to him, when he asked Israeli negotiator Elyaqim Rubinstein if Israel intended to effect a withdrawal based on the "Gaza first" formula, the latter denied that there were any such intentions. [passage omitted]

In yesterday's session, the cabinet decided to set up a special exemptions committee to approve construction in settlements in the territories. This resolution was not included in the press communique released by the cabinet secretary. The decision was made following an appeal to the High Court of Justice by Knesset Member Ron Nahman, head of the Ari'el local council, claiming that the total freeze on settlement had created serious environmental eyesores in residential areas and had caused damage to private building contractors. The exemptions committee headed by Arye Mizrahi, director general of the Construction and Housing Ministry, was established based on Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer's proposal. The committee will include David Brodet, head of the Finance Ministry's Budget Department, and Noah Kinarti, the prime minister's adviser on settlement affairs. [passage omitted]

Trend Toward Acceptance of Self-Rule Confirmed

TA2405100093 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 24 May 93 p 3

[Report by Amnon Barzilay and Sari'el Shani]

[Excerpt] Israel is leaning toward accepting the Palestinian concept of self-rule instead of autonomy during the interim accords.

This issue will apparently be discussed with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who, according to reports that reached Jerusalem yesterday, will be arriving in Israel at the beginning of next month. Christopher hopes to help formulate a Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles prior to the resumption of the next round of talks in the middle of June.

The Palestinians already presented a declaration of principles over one year ago, titled PISGA (Palestinian Interim Self-Governing Authority). The Likud government opposed this idea, as did the present government until recently.

A senior political source confirmed yesterday that Israel is leaning toward accepting the Palestinian position in order to dispel the Palestinians' fears about the term "autonomy," which, they claim, closes off political options prior to the discussions on the permanent status of the territories.

The legal ramifications of the Palestinian position were recently considered in the course of political discussions, with the participation of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The officials concluded that an acceptance of the Palestinian position would not limit Israel's options prior to a resolution based on territorial compromise, as stipulated by the Labor party's platform. The right-wing parties oppose the Palestinian concept, which, they claim, would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories. [passage omitted]

Beilin on U.S. Role, PNC Chairman Resignation

TA2305161993 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 May 93

[Studio interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Rafi Reshef—live]

[Text] [Reshef] Good evening, sir.

[Beilin] Good evening.

[Reshef] How did the Americans explain the decision not to dispatch their envoys, or rather to postpone the envoys' visit to our region?

[Beilin] I do not think it was a major decision for them. First they thought they would send someone, but as things stand now, no one is going to be sent. However, they did make one fundamental decision—to be an active partner in the ongoing negotiations. In my opinion, this is most important for each negotiating party that aspires to peace—us, as well as the Arabs. I assume the Americans will find a way to keep their promise, even if the officials who were due to be sent are not going to arrive quickly .

[Reshef] Their decision not to send these officials seems to reflect a pessimistic outlook. It stands to reason that they think that conditions are not ripe for a visit.

[Beilin] Not necessarily. They have other things on their agenda, and these or other officials may arrive later.

[Reshef] What was their request? Did they ask us for more gestures?

[Beilin] No, no request was presented as a condition for their arrival. This is definitely not the issue at this point. As far as I know, the issue is that they are very displeased with the Palestinian response. They invited the Palestinians for talks in the United States, but the Palestinians did not show up. It is quite possible that their decision to postpone the two officials' visit was due to their relations with the Palestinians rather than with us.

[Reshef] Do you understand their dynamics—namely, how they planned to resolve the situation by their mere presence here?

[Beilin] Look, I think that right now, American involvement in matters between us and the Palestinians—and even more so between us and the Syrians—is very important if progress is to be achieved, because in the recent rounds with the Arabs, we have to a certain extent been repeating the same points. I think with each such visit, we can learn a little bit more about the other party's stands, about what really matters to them, and about their red or almost red lines. With all that, we can try to arrive at some kind of joint paper.

By the way, right now the effort both with Syria and Jordan focuses on an agreed agenda for negotiations. We are not discussing the negotiations as yet; it is still the agenda. After 19 months, we still are not in agreement on the agenda. Therefore, the Americans are now making an effort to reduce the distance between our stands and those of the Palestinian to enable us to agree on an agenda when the 10th round resumes at the beginning or in the middle of June.

[Reshef] In what area do the Americans expect us to show greater flexibility?

[Beilin] I repeat: To the best of my knowledge, the main American effort is now focused on the Palestinians, with whom they wish to arrive at understandings. We know that part of the Palestinian intransigence in the last round stemmed not from problems connected with drafts but rather from their financial problem, from their expectation to receive substantial Saudi aid through pressure on the United States—an expectation that was dashed.

With regard to Israel, the Americans would like to hear a clearer stand on the interlock between the interim and the permanent arrangements—and that is a point on which we and the Palestinians have not as yet reached an understanding.

[Reshef] Is the Palestine National Council [PNC] chairman's resignation an important step liable to affect the arena? Since he was a supporter of the negotiations at the beginning of the process, will his move affect morale?

[Beilin] I would not discount his resignation. It is true that the man is about 91 years old, and for that reason, his resignation was not really surprising. He could have had reasons connected with age or health. At the same time, his observations after his resignation—those that were reported in the Arab and other media—were very interesting. If you take all his remarks about the Palestinians, put them in brackets, and then substitute them with parallel remarks by Israelis, you will see that the same observations are made on our side by people such as Yitzhaq Shamir, for instance. One of the examples is his observation that he is very much for peace, but not at this price. In his opinion, the Palestinian delegation is surrendering to Israel in exchange for peace.

To me this and his other remarks prove that there is a genuine argument between the conservative camp, which is unwilling to accept far-reaching steps, and the group negotiating with us—'Arafat, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Nabil Sha'th—whom the conservatives regard as traitors who have betrayed Palestinian

principles and values. From our point of view, it is an encouraging sign that there is an argument over the mainstream leadership's evidently greater willingness to march toward an agreement.

[Reshef] Thank you, Deputy Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Thank you.

Beilin Assesses Bilateral, Multilateral Talks

TA2305085993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 May 93 p A3

[ITIM report]

[Text] "Our declaration of agreement to withdraw from the Golan Heights [as published] has given a new opening for the negotiations with Syria," Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said during a tour of the Jordan Rift Valley on 21 May.

Addressing a forum of kibbutz members and farmers, Beilin said: "The problem between us and the Palestinians boils down to two essential points. One is the Palestinian claim that, although the government today does favor returning territories for peace, there is no guarantee that in 1996—at the end of the period of autonomy—they will not be facing a totally different government which might not be willing to cede any part of Eretz Yisra'el.

"We on the other hand maintain that one of the basic demands of the autonomy is for it to be a period of examination of the Palestinian ability to control Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the other 11 organizations opposing the peace process. If this examination is not held, no commitment could be made beyond the very agreement on the autonomy itself."

Beilin stressed that although Labor is currently portrayed as the guardian of the autonomy banner, even former Minister Yisra'el Galili at the time used to stress that the concept of autonomy does not stem from Labor Party's ideology, rather it is the brainchild of the late Menahem Begin.

Beilin believes that autonomy would be a test case of the Palestinian ability to establish an orderly and peaceful self-rule, which would operate without an abundance of rival and conflicting factions.

Beilin stressed that in the negotiations with Jordan we have managed to hold relatively far-reaching negotiations, therefore today we are discussing only the agenda with them. "The leak of the document of agreement, however, made Jordan lower its profile," he said. He also expressed his estimate that Jordan will not sign agreements with Israel before the Syrians or the Palestinians do so.

Referring to Lebanon, Beilin said that currently, there are only two armed militias there—Hizballah and the SLA [South Lebanese Army], which today is a different army than it used to be. It is mostly Shiite, and its men move from one unit to another with relative ease. The stubborn Lebanese demand that we leave the security zone as a precondition to opening talks with us is unacceptable. Furthermore, although we are aware of the fact that due to his great wealth the current Lebanese prime minister is more independent than any of his predecessors, Lebanon is in fact operating under Syrian rule."

[A report by Shim'on Weiss on page 3 of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 23 May adds that, referring to the multilateral discussions in his Jordan Rift Valley address, "Deputy Minister Beilin revealed that, with the exception of the committee on security and borders, the discussions of the other committees—on environment, economy, tourism, and others—made significant progress and the atmosphere there is far more relaxed than in the committee on security affairs, where the atmosphere is harsh and uncompromising.

["Some $25 million have so far been invested in various research projects in the region, of which the Italian Government invested $2.5 million in the canal planned to run from the Suez Canal to the Dead Sea [as published], which will include tourist sites and a large hydroelectric plant. There is also broad agreement on the issues of environment and energy.

["'I believe that a breakthrough on the issue of tourism might take place even before peace agreements are made because the area desperately needs tourists,' Beilin said. 'Opening the border between al-'Aqabah and Elat alone will bring in plenty of tourists; not to mention Syria which has wonderful tourist attractions and no tourism at all.'"]

ICRC President Charges Geneva Convention Violations

TA2305173993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] president today met with the prime minister. At the end of the meeting, he charged that Israel is violating several Geneva conventions clauses. He believes that the high number of fatalities in the territories, which includes young children, proves that use of live ammunition is out of proportion to the demonstrations. He further said that ICRC teams, which checked the detention camps in the territories, uncovered grave problems. He added that closure is a large-scale collective punishment with severe humanitarian ramifications.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in response, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stressed that terrorist organizations, which often resort to weapons, are responsible for the escalation in the territories.

[A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 23 May adds that the ICRC president and Rabin also "discussed the fate of Israel's POW's and

MIA's in Lebanon. The ICRC president stressed that his organization is determined to solve the problem."]

Gen. Rothschild on Conditions in West Bank, Gaza

TA2305173593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 May 93

[Interview with Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of activities in the territories, by Shlomo Ganor, in his office on 23 May—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Rothschild] I have not heard anything about pressure from the United States or anywhere else on the closure. The population is suffering hardship; we are aware of that. The government has just concluded a debate of four or rather five hours on the closure and how we can alleviate the distress of the local inhabitants. A decision was made to begin employing workers in make-work jobs in the territories on quite a sizable allocation from the Israeli Government's budget. In addition, a series of decisions was aimed at dealing with humane issues, such as people requiring medical treatment or the services of attorneys and courts in Israel. We are ready to do that, and we will try to alleviate the hardship as far as possible, but that does not mean the closure will be lifted in the near future.

[Ganor] When will the local population be able to return to normal life?

[Rothschild] I hope it can be done in the near future. As soon as the investments are implemented the local population will find the situation eased. If returning to normal life means going back to work in Israel in large numbers as they did before the closure, then that will not happen, but we are definitely aware that we have to alleviate the condition of those who lost their jobs in Israel by creating new jobs in the field.

[Ganor] According to your information, to what extent are there cases of hunger as a result of the closure or the harsh economic situation in the territories?

[Rothschild] We have no reports of hunger, and our people are dispersed all over the place. At the same time, we are aware of the hardship, and we try to resolve each individual problem by increasing welfare budgets and by directing those who want welfare to work so that they receive a salary. Even if it is not what they were getting in Israel, they can live on it honorably.

[Ganor] What about stories about hunger?

[Rothschild] We do not know about hunger. I have already said that, and I hope we will not reach such a situation.

[Ganor] General Rothschild, to what extent have the development plans and make-work jobs entered the implementation stage?

[Rothschild] The development plans are already in very high gear. In Judaea and Samaria alone, over 50 percent of our plans are already in the works and are employing several thousand workers. In Gaza too, over 50 percent of the plans are already in the works. In the coming weeks, additional tenders will be issued and more workers will be employed. Today, since the decision to initiate such projects, we are employing over 8,500 workers, which is a great many. I am not talking about makeshift work, but work on projects that not only contribute jobs but also benefit the public, since these include building schools, sewage lines, water, electricity, and so forth.

[Ganor] What is your position on American or other foreign aid for the territories?

[Rothschild] We are very pleased to accept any additional aid. We encourage it, and we will be happy to help anybody who wants to invest in the territories, whether privately or on a national or organizational basis. That was our policy before the closure, and it has certainly not changed with the closure.

[Ganor] In the political field, how far will the situation in the territories and the outcome of the last round of talks have an impact on the achievement of a declaration of principles with the Palestinians?

[Rothschild] I hope it will not have any impact. Anybody who tries to use the closure to make political capital in the negotiations is making a mistake. These are political negotiations in which both sides sit together, with the American partner, to deliberate, not necessarily on a document of principles, but on any agreement we can achieve. By the way, such agreements will also help the closure. We have offered practical proposals. We have suggested handing over at this stage some of the things we are supposed to transfer only within the framework of the interim arrangement to anybody who undertakes to run them fully. That body can apply for aid from outside and receive the budgets we are currently investing in those projects, which will undoubtedly enable it to improve conditions for the population. We are currently awaiting an answer from the Palestinian delegation, and I very much hope it will be positive. By the way, that does not replace negotiations, which will continue, but in the meantime we can do a lot to alleviate the hardships.

Temple Mount Prayers End Quietly; Arab Shot in Nabulus

TA2105114493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Friday prayers in the Temple Mount mosques in Jerusalem ended quietly a short time ago. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that over 15,000 worshipers attended the prayers, but only a few of them were from Judaea and Samaria, although this is the first time that they have been allowed to attend since the beginning of the closure.

Security sources believe that the reason for the low attendance is the call issued by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah activists to the population not to attend the services and to prove who is the ruler in the field. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that several buses carrying worshipers from Judaea and Samaria were held up at roadblocks on the outskirts of Jerusalem and were sent back. A military source noted that they did not have the appropriate permits.

In Nabulus this morning, a 19-year-old youth sustained moderate to serious wounds when he was shot by soldiers on a routine operation in the local casbah. Military sources said the soldiers called on the youngster to halt, but when he tried to escape, they opened fire and wounded him.

Two Gaza Houses Sealed; Youths Wounded by IDF

TA2105173493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] In the Gaza Strip today, security forces sealed up the houses of two Palestinians suspected of killing Tel Aviv lawyer Ian Feinberg. Qol Yisra'el's reporter in the territories says the two men were members of the military wing of George Habash's Popular Front terrorist organization.

Our reporter says two Palestinian youths were wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire in the territories today. One was seriously wounded and the other is reported in moderate condition. They were both involved in stone-throwing incidents against security forces, one in Ramallah and the other in Nabulus.

Soldiers Injured, 'Terrorists' Captured in Gaza

TA2205042493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 May 93

[Excerpt] In Gaza, two Israeli soldiers were very lightly wounded in the legs last night when a grenade was thrown at them. The incident occurred in the al-Shati' refugee camp. The soldiers were taken to hospital and a hunt was launched for attacker.

Also in the Gaza Strip, security forces say they captured two wanted terrorists in Rafah. Qol Yisra'el's reporter in the territories says an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol identified the two armed men, opened fire, and seriously wounded one of them. He was evacuated by helicopter to a hospital in the center of Israel. The other terrorist is currently being investigated. [passage omitted]

Jewish Youth, 6 Arabs Wounded in Territories

TA2205191593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] A 12-year-old Jewish settler from Hebron received a head injury this evening when a stone was thrown at him in the casbah while he on his way to the Cave of the Patriarchs. An Army medic treated him on the spot, and he was transferred to hospital. Our correspondents Moshe Nussbaum and Moti Amir report that in retaliation, a group of settlers rioted in the Hebron casbah, causing damage to property.

This evening it transpired that six people were wounded when shot by Border Policemen in this morning's incident in Ramallah. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that when Border Policemen dressed in civilian clothes were stoned in the center of Ramallah they fired at the stone throwers. One of the locals was seriously wounded, and one of the stone throwers was arrested.

Update on Intifadah Incidents 23 May

TA2405062793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] The General Security Services, with help from police, have captured a 15-year-old Arab youth from the Gaza Strip suspected of stabbing and wounding 'Aziza Kohen of Lod on Saturday. Under questioning, the suspect—who is from Bayt Hanun in the Strip—said he had been depressed and that out of desperation had hoped to either get himself killed or arrested by stabbing whoever he chanced on in a terrorist attack.

The body of a young Arab, about 20 years old, was found in Qalqilyah last night. The body bore signs of severe violence. It is believed he was murdered because he was suspected of aiding Israeli authorities.

An explosive device was thrown last night at an Israeli bus near Jaba' village, not far from Janin. No one was injured. Soldiers on the bus opened fire and the Army closed off the area and launched a search.

A leaflet distributed in the Gaza Strip says Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organizations will continue to cooperate in terrorist attacks on Israelis. The leaflet warns Palestinian farmers and produce dealers not to go near Israelis in the Gaza Strip, saying that every Israeli is a potential target for attack.

Sixty-six cars in West Jerusalem had their tires punctured last night. Qol Yisra'el's police reporter says the cars were parked on Derekh Bethlehem and Derekh Hebron.

Four Soldiers Killed by 'Friendly Fire' in Lebanon

TA2405104093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 May 93

[Report by army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik]

[Text] Here is an initial IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announcement, made several minutes ago: An IDF officer and three soldiers were killed, and three other soldiers were wounded by friendly fire when two IDF units exchanged fire in south Lebanon. Two of the soldiers were seriously wounded, and the third suffered moderate wounds. The units were on duty in the security

zone in south Lebanon early this morning. An IDF helicopter evacuated the wounded to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. The soldiers' families have been notified.

Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, expressed his great regret over the incident and said that its lessons will be carefully studied. Lt. Gen. Baraq sent the Army's condolences to the grieving families and wished the wounded a speedy recovery.

The combat accident took place at around 0400 [0100 GMT] when two Army units were on operational activity initiated by the IDF in the central sector of the security zone in south Lebanon. Due to a misunderstanding in the field—the details of which are being currently investigated at the Northern Command—the two units exchanged fire, which caused the deaths and injuries.

A debriefing is being held this morning at the Northern Command headquarters under Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, and Lt. Gen. Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, with the participation of soldiers and commanders who were at the site during the incident. Also taking part in the debriefing are the deputy chief of staff, the commanders of the Northern and Central Commands, the commander of the Ground Forces Command, and other senior Northern Command officers.

No-Confidence Motions Withdrawn After Lebanon Incident

TA2405110593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] In approximately 15 minutes, the Knesset plenum was scheduled to begin a debate of motions of no confidence in the government. In view of the tragedy in Lebanon, however, the opposition Knesset factions—the Likud, Tzomet, the National Religious Party, and Moledet—decided to withdraw the motions they submitted last week.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that it would be inappropriate to hold political debates on a day when we are all experiencing the pain of the tragic loss of life of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. He expressed the hope that the prime minister and defense minister and the IDF commanders will do all they must to ensure that the investigation into the incident is conducted thoroughly and that the necessary lessons are drawn to make sure such incidents do not recur.

IDF Sources Deny Helicopter Raid in South Lebanon

TA2405074393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources have denied Lebanese reports that Air Force helicopters raided terrorist targets in south Lebanon this morning. According to those reports, the helicopters launched a missile attack against villages controlled by Hizballah. To repeat, IDF sources have denied these reports.

Libya's al-Qadhdhafi Said Ready for Diplomatic Ties

TA2105141193 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 May 93 p 1

["Exclusive" report by Gid'on Kouts in Cannes]

[Text] Libyan ruler, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, may announce his willingness to establish diplomatic ties with Israel even before the end of the peace process. These remarks were made to DAVAR by Saudi billionaire 'Adnan al-Khashuqji, who is close to the Libyan ruler and who has recently spent a lot of time on business in Libya.

Al-Khashuqji said that the ball is now in Rabin's court, and that one of the goals of al-Qadhdhafi, who would like to be reconciled with the Jewish people through the mass gathering of Libyan Jews he plans to hold this summer, is to assist the Israeli prime minister by giving him an additional negotiating chip that will promote the peace process.

Al-Khashuqji said that the Libyan ruler's intentions are sincere and that, as he had once announced in an interview with THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, developments can be expected in this sphere.

Al-Hariri Returns From Visit to Damascus

NC2205154293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today returned to Beirut from Damascus after a one-day visit. During his stay, al-Hariri met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and senior Syrian officials and reviewed with them the general situation in Lebanon and the region in light of the latest developments.

Al-Hirawi Returns From Damascus Summit

NC2405062993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Beirut from Damascus early today after holding summit talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and other Syrian officials. The talks dealt with regional and bilateral issues of common concern. [passage omitted]

Buwayz, British Official Discuss Mideast Situation

NC2105120393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today received Michael Burton, director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the British Foreign Office, who expressed his country's desire to assist Lebanon. The discussion dealt with the situation in the Middle East, the peace process, and bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them, particularly in the field of British investment in Lebanon.

British Official Departs

NC2205111493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Michael Burton, director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the British Foreign Office, left Beirut for London today after a visit of several days. While he was here he met with senior Lebanese officials and discussed peace process developments, the regional situation, and bilateral ties. He was seen off at the airport by Munir Talhuq, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's protocol department, and British Embassy officials in Lebanon.

Buwayz on Israeli Document, Military Committee

NC2205054893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has reaffirmed that the publication of the Israeli document that was presented to the Lebanese negotiating delegation is detrimental to Lebanon's interests because it harms the credibility of the state and the delegation. He said the published text was not literal and that the translation was neither accurate nor correct. Proceeding from a negative attitude toward the document, he added, the rendition was pessimistic. Buwayz stressed that the possibility of the document leaking out of the Foreign Ministry was almost nonexistent.

On Lebanon's position toward the Israeli document, the foreign minister told the Voice of the Mountain: Lebanon's reply was very clear and based on constants and principles. Israel's reaction to Lebanon's reply was negative.

Buwayz said that Israel first will have to acknowledge and observe Resolution 425 and the principle of a full, unequivocal withdrawal from the occupied territories. Then, he added, we will accept the formation of a military committee, the specific objective of which will be to program the withdrawal and take the necessary measures for implementing it as soon as possible and in the best way. The withdrawal should also be arranged in a manner that will allow the Lebanese authority to restore the occupied regions gradually to avoid the chaos that sometimes accompanies the withdrawal of forces.

Buwayz said: We rejected the military committee in the past because we thought it either had no purpose or its objective was vague. Now, however, we say that if the committee's objective is vague, then it is unacceptable, but if Israel acknowledges and commits itself to a full withdrawal to the internationally recognized borders, then we will not object to the formation of the committee, the purpose of which should be to schedule the withdrawal and the release of the Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons.

Hizballah Leader Comments on Israeli Document

NC2405074993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has said that if a motion of confidence in the current government is proposed again, the number of those who will vote against it will be greater than before.

In an interview with AL-SAFIR, he said changing ministers does not solve the problem. He added that it is natural to give the government enough time, and then after a while the deputies should effectively bring it to account.

On the document Israel presented during the ninth round of the negotiations, Nasrallah said: We imagine that the talk about the great positive points in this paper is exaggerated, because this talk, coinciding with insistence on concealing the Israeli proposals, reflects an approach that misleads the Lebanese people. He noted that the dangers of peace with Israel are far greater than the dangers of war on all economic, political, and social levels.

Official Denies Changes in Negotiating Team

NC2405095693 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Foreign Ministry Secretary General Zafir al-Hasan has denied knowledge of any changes involving the Lebanese negotiating team. He said that he has no intention to head the delegation or the government.

In a statement after his meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, al-Hasan said that the talks dealt with the Foreign Ministry's needs, particularly since the government has entrusted a special committee with studying the needs of all government departments.

Deportee Spokesman Notes Palestinian 'Retractions'

NC2205125593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, has remarked that the Palestinian delegation has made such obvious retractions from its former positions that it has nothing more to concede. He added that when a U.S. delegation joins the process with the aim of bringing the views of the two sides closer, this means that the United States wants the Palestinian delegation to meet the Israeli delegation at least halfway.

Al-Rantisi commented: How can the Palestinian delegation meet the Israeli delegation halfway when it has already retracted from all former Palestinian constants?

He pointed out that when someone submits to pressure, he becomes vulnerable to further pressure and it is not in the Palestinian delegation's interest to continue making concessions.

In a statement to journalists today, al-Rantisi expressed hope that the Arab League will act earnestly and forcefully in connection with the ugly crimes occurring in the occupied Arab territories, which are insulting to all Arabs.

He announced: We want the Arab League to act earnestly, promptly, and forcefully. Denunciation alone is not enough.

Praises PNC Speaker's Resignation

NC2305125193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, has commented on PNC [Palestine National Council] Speaker 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih's announcement of his resignation. He said: Shaykh al-Sa'ih's action is courageous and responsible. We have been waiting for such an announcement from him, particularly as he is a former deportee and knows very well the bitterness of deportation.

At a news conference today, al-Rantisi remarked that many honorable people in the PLO reject the humiliating negotiations and soon will make their position known.

He added: The negotiating delegation must withdraw to safeguard the Palestinian people's unity. These negotiations will fragment our people's unity and cause a civil war.

He demanded that all Palestinian forces hold a comprehensive national dialogue in order to close ranks, clarify the situation, and formulate a Palestinian decision that serves the nation's good.

Al-Rantisi said he believes that Israel will wage a war against the Arabs whether they resume or boycott the negotiations. He urged the Arabs to embark on a new stage of military preparation to confront this Zionist onslaught.

Israeli Helicopters Attack Southern Town

NC2405050793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0446 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk:

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the south has just reported that two Israeli helicopters raided the township of Qabrikha and rocketed the houses of 'Ali 'Atwah and Muhammad Nassar. The Israeli helicopters later raked the town and its suburbs.

Raid Targets Hizballah Areas

NC2405072693 Paris AFP in English 0658 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, May 24 (AFP) - Israeli helicopters on Monday [24 May] raided areas of south Lebanon where the pro-Iranian Hizballah has bases, security sources said, without reporting casualties.

The helicopters fired missiles at targets in the villages of Zawtar, Yuhmur and Qabrikha, just north of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

A home belonging to a fighter of the Shiite Muslim fundamentalist group Hizballah was one of two buildings which took a direct hit in Qabrikha, the sources said.

An Israeli officer and two Israeli-backed militiamen were killed last week in bomb attacks claimed by Hizballah.

Second Attack, Mock Raids Reported

NC2405083693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes staged mock raids over the south at 1000 today, concentrating on al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Israeli helicopters launched two raids this morning within one hour of each other on three villages in the south. There are no reports on casualties. At around 0715, two helicopters fired five rockets at unidentified targets in Zawtar and Yuhmur near the central sector of the security strip. An hour earlier, two other helicopters raided Qabrikha and fired two rockets at two houses, scoring direct hits.

Islamic Resistance, SLA Fighters Killed

Two Killed Planting Bomb

NC2205074093 Paris AFP in English 0643 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, May 22 (AFP) - Two anti-Israeli fighters were killed early Saturday as they planted a bomb in Israel's self-declared "security zone" of south Lebanon, the South Lebanese Army (SLA) said.

The incident occurred near Dibil in the security's zone's western sector, said the Israeli-backed SLA, which did not specify the dead men's identities.

The Islamic Resistance, the paramilitary arm of the pro-Iranian Hizballah militia, has since 1985 claimed most of the anti-Israeli attacks in south Lebanon.

SLA Militiamen Killed by Bomb

NC2205164993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Two agent Lahd militiamen were killed in a bomb attack in the occupied area of the south when a civilian car was passing by the road bordering al-Litani River 8 km from Marj 'Uyun, the headquarters of the Israeli occupation army and agent Lahd militia.

In another development, a source in the Islamic Resistance has stated that two of its fighters were killed overnight Friday while planting a bomb near Dibil.

Civilian Also Killed in Bomb Attack

NC2205150593 Paris AFP in English 1436 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, May 22 (AFP)—A Lebanese civilian was killed and two Israeli-backed militiamen were wounded Saturday [22 May] in a bombing attack in south Lebanon, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) said.

The civilian driver of a car died instantly when a bomb exploded as he headed on a road bordering the al-Litani River in Israel's self-declared "security zone" eight kilometers (five miles) from Marj 'Uyun, headquarters of the Israeli army and its proxy SLA.

The car's two passengers—SLA militiamen—were wounded, one seriously, they said of the attack which was still unclaimed by mid-afternoon.

The Islamic Resistance, the paramilitary arm of the pro-Iranian Hizballah militia, has since 1985 claimed most of the anti-Israeli attacks in south Lebanon.

The Islamic Resistance however acknowledged the death overnight Friday of two of its members who were planting a bomb near Dibil in the "security's zone's" western sector.

The operation was reported earlier by the SLA.

An AFP correspondent in the region saw a Koran and shreds of military wire fencing near the torn up bodies.

Hizballah Radio Claims 7 Killed

NC2305063193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Islamic Resistance fighters yesterday detonated an explosive charge as a motorized patrol of the Zionist occupation forces and their agents was traveling on the al-Khardali road. The blast destroyed an enemy troop carrier and left seven enemy elements dead. The enemy radio admitted the death of two Lahdist agents and the injury of a third in the operation.

Army Seizes Weapons From Fatah-Revolutionary Council

NC2405071093 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 17 May 93 p 9

[Text] AL-SHIRA' has learned from a reliable Lebanese security source that the Lebanese Army raided a Fatah-Revolutionary Council center in the Sharhabil area in Asta a few days ago and seized a large quantity of weapons.

Lebanese Prime Minister Comments on Damascus Talks

NC2305064093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] In a statement before leaving Damascus, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said: My talks dealt with various issues concerning the two fraternal countries in light of our relations of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination.

In reply to a question, al-Hariri stressed Lebanon's adherence to coordination and consultation with Arab brothers concerned with the peace process. He also stressed the Arabs' determination to participate in the peace efforts and their conviction that attaining peace is advantageous and necessary for all parties so that security may prevail in the region and its peoples enjoy prosperity and stability.

Responding to another question, al-Hariri said: Lebanon will not move backwards, and the process of reconstruction and building will not stop. He stressed that the government will proceed with honoring all its pledges to the people and consolidating security and stability and the state's establishments and their role. He noted that attempts to obstruct development and security will not succeed and that Lebanon, which has regained most of its strength, will not allow things to regress. He stressed that the Lebanese are determined to proceed with completing the construction in their homeland and restoring the country's strength, sovereignty, and stability.

Al-Hariri praised Syria's support for Lebanon and for the Lebanese people's efforts at all levels. He thanked Syria for supporting the Lebanese people and said this support will continue until they fulfill all their aspirations so the country may stand on its own feet with sovereignty, freedom, and prosperity.

Lebanese President Pays Unexpected Visit

NC2305152993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] A Lebanese-Syrian summit meeting between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has been under way in Damascus since 1600 today.

President al-Hirawi left at noon today for Damascus on an unexpected and previously unannounced visit. The visit is taking place three days after the administrative appointments were announced and one day after a similar visit by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, which ended last night.

Meets al-Asad

JN2305173593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1659 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Damascus, 23 May (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi at 1600 today. The two sides discussed the situation and developments in the Middle East, issues related to the peace process in the region, and bilateral relations.

Media Comment on Israeli, U.S. Stances at Peace Talks

U.S. Must Exert Influence

JN2205075093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 May 93

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Threatened Peace," TISHRIN editorializes on the situation in the occupied territory, linking this with the Middle East peace talks. The paper adds that Israel has brought the last round of talks to an impasse.

TISHRIN says: Chances of peace in the coming period are no better than before, because the Israeli stand has not moved an inch. Yesterday, Rabin announced that he will neither make any further concessions to the Palestinians nor raise the issue of Jerusalem in the talks. He even asked the Palestinians to make concessions, noting that Israel will not return to the borders of 4 June 1967.

TISHRIN adds: Escalating violence in the occupied territory is not far from Rabin's settlement scheme. He believes that exerting pressure on the Palestinians, imposing a tight military siege on the West Bank and Gaza, starving the Arab citizens, and preventing them from working, will make them accept the limited self-rule—which concerns nothing more than municipal affairs—that is presented to them. The paper adds: It is natural for the Palestinians to confront Rabin's plot and expose its dimensions. It is also natural for all Arab parties, participating in the Washington talks, to adhere to the Security Council resolutions and to the essence of the peaceful principles, which calls for complete withdrawal from the occupied territory.

TISHRIN says: The U.S. Administration has called, through its officials, for maintaining the momentum of the peace talks and for not wasting time. The fact is that the talks have lost much of their momentum and will totally fail if Washington does not earnestly and firmly intervene and assume its role as a fair and honest broker.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The U.S. Administration is required to exert its efforts with the party which obstructs the talks and whose intransigence is obstructing peace, particularly since, at the beginning of June, the Arab foreign ministers will make an assessment of the results of the ninth round and discuss the peace process in light of these results, which, according to all, were negative.

AL-THAWRAH writes about the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab territory. The paper says that this deterioration resulting from the bloody Israeli coercion

and repression practiced against our people in the occupied Arab territories prompted many senior international officials to visit these territories.

AL-THAWRAH says: This tragic situation also prompted Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Edward Djerejian to break his silence and to openly ask Israel yesterday to mitigate its severe practices in the occupied territories and to ease the military siege imposed on these territories. This is because the continued brutal coercion practiced by the Zionist occupation against the Arabs there will obstruct any progress in the peace process. This coercion is also considered a blatant violation of UN charters and norms and the Security Council resolutions, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Human Rights Declaration.

AL-THAWRAH adds: It has become clear that this new escalation in the continuous campaign of terrorism against the citizens in the occupied territory came following the failure of the recent bilateral talks to make any progress as a result of Israeli intransigence. This escalation also coincides with the wave of statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and his aides who definitely reject Israeli withdrawal from occupied Jerusalem to the borders of 4 June 1967.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: This shows that Israel is not serious about reaching a peaceful, just, and comprehensive solution to the crisis in the region. This also exposes Israeli rulers' evasion of the principles of this peace and its points of reference derived from Resolutions 242 and 338, which reject occupation of other parties' land by force, and which also call for complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory and for recognizing the Palestinian Arab people's national legitimate rights, particularly their right to self-determination.

U.S Uses Same Standard for 'Victim, Murderer'

JN2205112393 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0810 GMT 22 May 93

[Excerpt] Damascus, 22 May (SANA)—AL-THAWRAH says that the U.S. Administration is holding both the Arabs and Israel equally responsible for the failure of the ninth round of the Middle East peace talks.

In an editorial by its chief editor 'Amid Khuli, AL-THAWRAH says: What is really strange is that soon after the end of the ninth round, the United States declared that it cannot go it alone and that both parties, the Arabs and Israel, bear the responsibility for the failure of the round. This means that the Arabs, as much as Israel, have brought the negotiations to its known end, contributed to the failure of the talks, and are partners in the intransigence, procrastination, and rejection of peace.

The paper said that this is the first time that the United States employed one standard in dealing with the region, but it employed it to hold the Arabs just as responsible as Israel, for complicating the talks.

AL-THAWRAH said: It is a very painful irony, and it is very significant that the Arabs are unjustly being dragged into becoming partners to what Israel has done through applying one standard to both parties. The paper stressed that this is the only place that the same standard should not be applied because doing so makes the Arabs just like Israel, aggressors and occupiers of land—which is Arab land—and will view them as people who practice the ugliest forms of oppression and human rights violations against themselves.

The paper stressed that there is no other logical interpretation of this issue. The Arabs are very disappointed that when one standard was finally employed it equated the victim with the murderer.

Ending its comment, the paper called on the Arabs to be aware of this issue within this comprehensive framework, in a manner that drives them to a unified position in which they show solidarity with themselves and with their cause, and to urge the U.S. Administration to change the nature of its role and its effectiveness during the next peace talks. [passage omitted]

Arab Position Praised

JN2305102593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 May 93

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Israeli Policies Are The Same; How Are We To Confront Them?," the newspaper AL-BA'TH editorial says: The policy of procrastination and maneuvering being pursued by Israel to evade peace requirements is extremely obvious. Throughout the past nine rounds of talks held in Washington over a period of several months, the negotiations have failed to make any progress that could advance the peace process in any conceivable manner.

The paper adds: Whenever the Arab sides attempted to discuss substance, the Israeli delegations showed evasion and raised issues that had nothing to do with either substance or the peace process, for that matter.

Elaborating on the tactics the Tel Aviv government is using in the course of its procrastination, maneuvering, and evasion, the paper touches on Yitzhaq Rabin's recent statement that he intends to hold a public referendum on the issue of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, even though he has not thus far expressed willingness to effect a complete Israeli troop withdrawal from these territories.

AL-BA'TH says: These statements by Rabin coincided with the resolutions adopted by a provocative Likud conference. The Likud conference underscored various positions showing that Israeli leaders are not seeking a

true peace. Indeed, they are working to torpedo all efforts aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

Concluding its editorial, the paper affirms the need for a unified Arab position to confront new developments, particularly since the Zionist danger is targeting all parties.

For its part, the newspaper TISHRIN comments on statements made by a U.S. presidential adviser for Middle East affairs on the U.S. National Security Council. In these statements, the U.S. official quoted President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher as saying that the U.S. handling of the peace talks provides for working with Israel, and that the U.S. Administration is committed to its strategic partnership with Israel with respect to the efforts to achieve peace and security.

The U.S. presidential adviser explained that this means withdrawal from occupied territories—which is in line with the Israeli position, which is opposed to withdrawal from all occupied territories.

The paper adds: These statements have serious connotations for the peace process, and are seen as strange and bewildering, because they run counter to the U.S. initiative, which calls for returning the occupied territories in exchange for peace. These statements also contravene the pledges made by Secretary of State Christopher when he said that the principle of exchanging land for peace means that the Israelis must return the occupied territories to their Arab owners in return for peace.

TISHRIN notes that when it renounces these pledges, the United States shows bias toward Israel and its obstructionist approach, particularly since the administration of President Clinton is well aware, before anybody else, that peace has its own basic components and elements, which are grounded in Resolutions 242 and 338, which in turn provide for the establishment of a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the Middle East.

TISHRIN goes on to say: When it underscores its commitment to strengthen its strategic partnership with Israel, the United States nullifies its earlier pledges to play the role of a full partner; that is, the role of an honest, fair, and unbiased broker. Everybody thought that the performance of a full partner role by the United States would result in increased support for the peace process, a just and comprehensive solution, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and also for the U.S. initiative, which is based on Resolutions 242 and 338, and the idea of exchanging land for peace as well. This means that this initiative was specifically anchored on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: The Arabs have done everything possible to activate the peace process. The United States admitted that the working paper the Syrian delegation submitted to the Washington peace talks is historic, given the bases, elements, and principles enshrined in it to help achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Hence, it is strange that the U.S. official has, either intentionally or unintentionally, overlooked Syria's stand. Thanks to Syria's responsiveness to the U.S. initiative, the door for a just and comprehensive peace has been opened. Syria has not budged a single hairbreadth from its position; for indeed, this position is conducive to a true, just, and comprehensive peace. When it attempts to cast doubts on this position, Israel shows itself evading the requirements and basic components of peace.

In one of its commentaries, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: More than 18 months have passed since the convocation of the Madrid conference. During that time, nine rounds of bilateral talks have been held in Washington, but to no avail. The peace process has failed to make any progress. This process has failed to produce one positive result that could leave room for a single ray of hope regarding the possible attainment of the desired objective.

The paper adds: Judging by the progress of the talks, it has been proven that it is the Arabs who are sincere in their peaceful intentions, and that they alone are the parties working to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, which would establish security and stability in the Middle East. As for Israel, it has revealed its true colors before the international community. It has shown itself as a tyrannical and aggressive power opposed to peace and bent on making immense efforts to prevent it from materializing. For peace is the antithesis of its doctrine and ideology, which are based on expansion, domination, and the usurpation of further Arab territories and rights.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: Yesterday, the United States said that no time should be wasted, and that negotiators must focus on substance to help make progress in the talks.

The paper wonders: How can this be achieved, particularly as Israel continues to reject complete withdrawal and proceeds with land confiscation and the construction of settlements? How can progress be made while the Rabin government continues to entrench itself in provocative and intransigent positions?

The paper says: A willingness on the part of Israel to comply with the terms of reference of the peace process, to commit itself to the full implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and to explicitly recognize the Palestinians' legitimate rights and their just demands is a prerequisite for progress in the negotiations. The progress spoken of by Washington requires the Rabin government to make some goodwill gestures toward the Palestinians, such as lifting the siege imposed on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, ending attacks on southern Lebanon, and halting the tyrannical repression and terrorism being carried out against the Palestinians of the occupied Arab territories.

Arabs Will Not Concede Land, Rights

JN2305105393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] In Damascus today, the official Syrian newspaper AL- THAWRAH said that the United States is deluded if it believes that deception and wasting time on side issues will force the Arabs to capitulate or concede their land and rights. The Syrian paper says that behind Israel's intransigence is the unceasing political, military, and economic backing of the United States.

U.S. Role 'Fell Short of Expectations'

JN2405072093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 May 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Peace is a Serious Responsibility and Work," TISHRIN says: President Hafiz al-Asad stressed, during his meeting with the Netherlands foreign minister, Syria's commitment to the peace process and its eagerness to rid the region of war. President al-Asad noted that Syria has offered much to achieve progress in the peace process while Israel offered nothing. President Hafiz al-Asad noted that peace is in the interest of the region and the world and that it requires serious and objective cooperation and a fair stand by all countries concerned about peace. He added that in this regard every country has a role to play and a responsibility to bear.

TISHRIN adds: President Hafiz al-Asad's statement came following the failure of the ninth round of talks on which the world had pinned great hopes. After reviewing Israeli intransigence vis-a-vis the peace process and its rejection of the bases of this process on which the Madrid conference convened, TISHRIN says: Hopes were pinned on an effective U.S. stand and an active international move. However, the American role fell short of expectations and equated the aggressor with the aggrieved party, and the executioner with the victim.

TISHRIN says: By withdrawing from all occupied territory, Israel does not make big sacrifices as it claims, but corrects an abnormal situation. This land was occupied by force and its inhabitants are still exposed to displacement and coercion. In the West Bank and Gaza, the Israelis have been imposing an inhuman siege, starving the Arab citizens there, killing people, and demolishing houses. They even do not hesitate to massacre women and children. In southern Lebanon, the Israelis pursue a scorched earth and displacement policy. The Israeli Army shells, attacks, and raids that area on a daily basis. In the Golan, Syrian refugees were not allowed to return to their villages and towns and Israeli laws were imposed by force on those who were able to remain there. So far, the international community has been following double standards. Security Council resolutions are mere ink on paper and human rights protectors are turning a blind eye to the serious violations of the Geneva conventions in the occupied territory instead of deterring the aggressors.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: It is not enough to make resounding statements concerning commitment to the peace process. Nine full rounds of talks have failed, and if the 10th round convenes it will face the same outcome. It is a delusion to think that Israel will ever follow the peace path of its own accord. Events have always proved that Israel is interested only in expansion, and speaks about peace merely to deceive world public opinion.

Afghanistan

Defense Ministry Jet Bombs Kabul District in Error

LD2205111393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] A fighter aircraft belonging to Afghanistan's Defense Ministry accidentally dropped three cluster bombs on a district in the east of Kabul. The explosion left 10 people dead and 40 injured. Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman Yunes Qanuni said: The incident occurred because the aircraft pilot lost his target. He added: The incident is currently being investigated and a full report will be published.

According to an eyewitness, the fighter aircraft dropped three cluster bombs on one of Kabul's old districts at 0830 hours this morning while flying at medium altitude.

Unofficial Cease-Fire Announced in Kabul

BK2305091693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0905 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Kabul, May 23 (AFP)—An unofficial ceasefire went into effect in southern Kabul Sunday [23 May] with ex-communist militia acting as a buffer force between Defence Ministry forces and rival factions, witnesses said.

The ceasefire followed 12 days after the outbreak of devastating fighting which has left some 1,000 dead and thousands more wounded.

"Till now no official ceasefire has been announced," said Defence Ministry spokesman General Yunus Qanuni.

Yet the roads were open for civilians for the first time since the fighting started, and many residents took advantage of the calm to flee the area with what belongings they could carry.

There were no rockets fired into the capital by rival factions and no Defence Ministry jets flew bombing missions against them.

India

Minister, Parties React to Malott's Remarks on Kashmir

BK2105161093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] The human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, today categorically stated that Kashmir is an internal issue of India and no American interference will be allowed in this regard. He was commenting on the remarks made by the U.S. principal deputy assistant secretary of state, Mr. John Malott, on terrorism in Kashmir and alleged human rights violations. At a meet-the-press program organized by the U.P. [Uttar Pradesh] Press Club in Lucknow, Mr. Arjun Singh said that since independence, all political parties have firmly maintained that the accession of Kashmir was final and irrevocable.

The left parties today told the United States not to interfere in India's internal affairs, particularly the Kashmir issue on the pretext of alleged violation of human rights. They said the people of India will not tolerate any infringement on their sovereignty on the question of Kashmir. A joint statement by the Communist Party of India, the Communist Party of India-Marxist, the All India Forward Bloc, and the RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party] followed the reported remarks by the U.S. principal deputy assistant secretary of state, Mr. John Malott, on Kashmir. While articulating his government's desire that the Kashmir dispute be resolved bilaterally under the Simla agreement, Mr. Malott had (?unwittingly) stated that India's record on human rights would be considered at par with the direct help being rendered by Pakistan to terrorists in Kashmir, the statement said.

The Janata Dal has criticized the reported suggestion of the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, Mr. John Malott, for autonomy to the Kashmir valley. Talking to newspersons in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. Harikishore Singh, alleged that it seems that the American Government is bringing pressure on New Delhi to concede the demand. He demanded that the government at the highest level should categorically come against on Mr. Malott's observation.

Further Reaction

BK2205072493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0636 GMT 22 May 93

[By M. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, May 22 (AFP)—A call by a senior U.S. official for a political solution to the Muslim insurgency in Kashmir and an end to Indian human rights abuses there has been welcomed by Kashmiri secessionists but condemned by New Delhi.

"It is a great relief to hear something concrete from America," said the outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, one of the major separatist groups, echoing popular sentiment in the troubled Kashmir valley.

The powerful Hizbul Mojahedin added: "It is great that America has realised how grave (the) Kashmir problem is."

Both groups issued their statements Friday in Kashmir's summer capital, Srinagar, two days after Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Malott outlined the Clinton administration's views on Kashmir. Malott said the United States considered all of Kashmir, divided

between India and Pakistan by a line of control drawn in 1948, as disputed territory, indicating that the U.S. government disputed Indian sovereignty over the province.

He urged India to curb abuses by its troops fighting Muslim militants and to allow international human rights groups to visit Kashmir. He called also for "a meaningful political dialogue with the Kashmiris."

The unprecedented remarks embarrassed Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's government, which is seeking to build bridges with Washington after years of friendship with Moscow, and angered political parties and the media.

The Indian government, sensitive to criticism on the human rights front, said it did not require "advice or exhortation" from anyone. It was silent on the U.S. call to involve Kashmiris in a political dialogue.

The ideologically-splintered opposition, however, reacted angrily.

"It would be best if the U.S. did nothing in the matter," said K.R. Malkani, vice-president of the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party. "The security forces in Kashmir are doing a commendable job under difficult circumstances."

Indian communist parties accused Malott of attempting to equate human rights violations by Indian security forces with the support extended to Muslim groups in Kashmir by Pakistan.

"The Indian people will not tolerate any infringement of India's sovereignty on the Kashmir question on the pretext of human rights," they said.

The centrist Janata Dal (People's Party) said Malott's suggestion amounted to conferring special autonomy on Kashmir, which would prove "pernicious...for national integrity and secular polity."

India maintains that Kashmir's status is not negotiable and also claims the northern third of the province held by Pakistan. Islamabad wants a plebiscite in Kashmir to decide if it should go to India or Pakistan, which have fought two wars over the region.

New Delhi, meanwhile, has accused Islamabad of arming the Kashmiri rebels, whose number is estimated in the hundreds. Pakistan denies the charge.

"The Americans are, for all practical purposes, endorsing Pakistani terrorism in Kashmir by linking that issue to Pakistani allegations of human rights violations by India," the INDIAN EXPRESS said.

The respected Hindu newspaper said there was "no fig leaf of justification to subject democratic India to scrutiny in the realm of basic human rights or to interfere with this country's sovereign right to set its own democratic agenda."

The OBSERVER went a step further, saying the statements by the highest ranking U.S. official to visit India since Bill Clinton assumed office in January were "likely to embolden the (Kashmiri) terrorists further."

In Kashmir, where thousands have died since the separatist campaign turned violent four years ago, many Muslims praised Malott for his frankness.

"It indicates that international opinion is building up to solve the long-pending dispute," said Syed Ali Shah Geelani, leader of the Jamiat-i-Islami. "It has given a shot in the arm to the oppressed Kashmiris."

Pakistani Intelligence Said Working To Escalate Unrest

BK2405110993 Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 May 93 p 2

[Text] Jammu, May 11—Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) has finalised a new three-pronged strategy to further escalate violence and militancy in the Kashmir valley, and intensify anti-India propaganda drive abroad.

The core of upgrading the insurgency in the valley comprises pushing in highly trained Kashmiri militants into the valley from Pak-occupied Kashmir, along witb foreign mercenaries to supervise the operations, according to authoritative sources here.

On the international plane, efforts would be made to lure important pro-Pakistan leaders from the valley to tour western countries and join the anti-India propaganda drive launched by Pakistan against alleged violation of human rights in the valley.

One such leader namely, Mr. A.G. Lone, who went abroad on the pretext of getting advanced medical treatment is busy leading anti- India propaganda drive, and is said to be coordinating with Pakistani diplomats entrusted with the task of misleading public opinion and the media in the Western countries. Four other senior pro-Pakistan leaders from the valley, who tried to go abroad with the intention of performing Hajj pilgrimage, were last week prevented from leaving Delhi, while they were boarding a plane for Jeddah.

According to the sources, a sizeable number of newly trained militants have managed to infiltrate into the valley along with foreign mercenaries, mostly Afghan and Sudanese nationals, who have taken part in the insurgency in Afghanistan.

Groups of ten to twelve highly motivated terrorists are deputed to penetrate the Line of Actual Control, and indulge in subversive and violent activities. The mercenaries accompanying such groups supervise and guide the terrorists and plan tasks for them, the sources claimed.

Major thrust of the terrorist operations would continue to he the Kashmir valley, while some selected pockets in

Jammu would also be activated to ease pressure on the terrorists operating in Kashmir, as per newly formulated ISI strategy, the sources said.

One Afghan mercenary was recently killed on the border by the security forces, while five Pakistan nationals were captured at the Balnoi area in the Poonch sector after an encounter with the security forces.

The captured Pakistani nationals revealed that they had been given special assignments to launch rocket attacks on military installations in the Rajouri-Mendher sector of the Jammu region.

In the course of interrogation, the captured Pakistani nationals also disclosed that the ISI had strengthened its command posts in occupied Kashmir with the addition of two senior army intelligence officers, namely Col. Sarfaraz Khan and Col. Murtaza, who gained notoriety for their exploits in operations in Afghanistan.

The two officers have set up their camp at Khuiraatta, which had figured prominently in the training camp map for Kashmiri militants in Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

The two senior ISI officers are also said to be supervising the shifting of some of the training camps from occupied Kashmir to the border on Afghanistan.

Indian security forces also nabbed a 20-year-old youngman, Zahid, from Uttar Pradesh, while crossing into this side of the Line of Control from occupied Kashmir. He is stated to have told his interrogators that there were a few groups of non-Muslim mercenaries, mostly from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, who were being trained as spies and subversives by the ISI to operate in India.

Reportage on Military Operations in Jammu, Kashmir

Seven Killed, 11 Arrested

BK2205122093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, seven top militants were killed and 11 were arrested by the security forces during the last 24 hours. Some sophisticated arms and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered. Two militants belonging to Hizbul Mojahedin, a pro-Pakistan militant outfit, surrendered before the security forces along with their arms and ammunition.

Pakistani Among 14 Killed

BK2205162693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] The union minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, says government will deal with the militants and fundamentalist forces in Jammu and Kashmir with a heavy hand. Mr. Pilot was addressing a joint meeting of district officers, representatives of political and social parties in Doda today. Mr. Pilot said the government has provided ample and conclusive evidence of Pakistan's involvement in giving training and arms to the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir to Mr. John Malott, a senior U.S. executive, during his recent visit to India. Mr. Pilot reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir is inseparable from India. Mr. Pilot was on a one-day tour of Doda District following recent incidents of violence there.

In the Kashmir valley, the Army achieved yet another breakthrough by arresting the newly appointed self-styled supreme commander of the banned al-Jihad, Billor Ahmad Goglu, in the Tangmarg area of Baramula District. According to a defense spokesman, Billor Ahmad, alias Altaf Alamgir, was arrested this morning after the Army cordoned off the area.

Meanwhile, the self-styled supreme commander of al-Jihad, Sheikh Abdul Aziz, who was arrested yesterday has confessed that he was responsible for the killing of 13 persons in Pampur and Anantnag. He was also responsible for the killing of an Army captain in Sopor. He also revealed that he motivated a number of persons to go to Pakistan for arms training.

Meanwhile, 14 persons, including nine militants, were killed in militancy related incidents in the last 24 hours in the valley. A Pakistani national was killed on the outskirts of Srinagar city during an encounter with the security forces. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from the killed militants.

Large Arms Cache Seized

BK2305162893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, the Army has seized one of the biggest ever caches of arms and explosives from a militant hideout in Anantnag town. An Army spokesman told our Jammu correspondent that three rocket projectile guns, one machine gun, 11-AK type rifles, grenades, and a large quantity of ammunition were among the items captured. The seizure was made following information provided by a militant, Kaka Kotwal of the outlawed al-Jihad, who was arrested recently. The spokesman said that the many of the leadership of the outfit have been arrested or killed in the past three days on information given by the common people in the valley. He said the arrested militants are also providing useful information.

Meanwhile, six militants including a self-styled area commander were killed in three different encounters with the security forces in the last 24 hours. Nineteen militants were arrested. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered. Giving details of the incidents, an official spokesman said in Srinagar today that a hard-core militant, Nazir Ahmed Khan, alias Adil of al-Jihad, was killed in an encounter with the security forces at Ashugam in Anantnag District.

Top Punjab Militant, 2 Accomplices Killed in Clash

BK2405080893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] In Punjab, one top militant, Sukhjit Singh alias Bijli, and two of his accomplices were killed in an encounter with security forces near village Desal in Kapurthala District early this morning. According to an official spokesman, one rifle, one rocket launcher, and other ammunition were recovered from the encounter site. In Faridkot District, security forces held four militants last night.

New Governors Appointed in Three States

BK2305155293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Orissa are to have new governors. Mr. B. Satyanarayan Reddy has been shifted from Uttar Pradesh to Orissa. He will be succeeded by the former union minister, Mr. Motilal Vora. The Rajasthan governor, Dr. M. Chenna Reddy, has been moved to Tamil Nadu. The present incumbent, Mr. Bhishma Narain Singh, has resigned. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] communique in New Delhi says the Haryana governor, Dr. Dhanik Lal Mandal, will hold the additional charge of Rajasthan till a successor to Dr. Chenna Reddy is appointed.

Scientists Develop Process To Remove Radioactivity

BK2205093093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Indian scientists have developed a chemical process to remove radioactivity. This was announced by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, AERB, secretary, Mr. K.S. Parthasarathy. He told newsmen in Bombay that the process was applied for the first time to remove radioactivity from the inner surface of the primary heat transport system at the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station. It helped in reducing the radiation level to half in many areas.

Iran

President Discusses U.S., Economy at News Conference

LD2305142693 Tehran IRNA in English 1354 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today termed as "positive and successful" the function of his government over the past four years, saying that the economic growth has been remarkably high. "I think what has been done over the past few years regarding the consolidation of the economic infrastructure of the country has been unprecedented throughout history," he told a press conference. Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said that production index and potential of the country has had an upwards trend since 1989 with the economic growth rate reaching 8.3 percent which, he added, is very high compared with figures around the world.

As a result of growth in production activities the unemployment rate fell from 14.9 percent to 11 percent during the period and the imports of five million tons of wheat were reduced by half despite the population increase, he noted. According to him currently 800,000 students are enrolled at the country's universities, a two fold increase as compared with four years ago. More than five million square meters of educational space is under construction now, he added.

On oil production, the president pointed out that Iran's capacity rose from 2.5 million barrels per day to 4.1 million barrels per day, while piped gas facilities were extended to 150 towns and cities during the period.

Questioned on relations with the west, he said cooperation with different world states except for two countries, is among the principles of Iranian foreign policy. The president meant the apartheid regime of South Africa and the Zionist entity.

"As for the U.S.", he added, "they are still hostile against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and we have serious disputes with them."

Asked whether the Islamic Iran would establish relations with the U.S. if Washington returned the frozen assets of Iran, Rafsanjani said that as long as they (Americans) are freezing our assets, we regard it as a sign of their ill-intention. "If the assets were freed then we would make up our mind."

On the international human rights conference to be held in Vienna, the president said Iran will explain to the conference that it attaches genuine and actual respect to human rights than others, "however, we are not the kind to make pretentions [on] this like the others," he added.

The president also dismissed as "incorrect" the alleged moderate stance of Iran concerning the issue of sentenced apostate Salman Rushdie, and said "my opinion and that of other Iranian authorities has been the same since the beginning."

"Westerners are after certain objectives by indulging in ballyhoo in this regard," he concluded.

On Iran's relations with Persian Gulf countries the president said Iran has friendly relations with these states, however, he added, big powers are trying to create insecurity in the region in order to justify their presence.

On the probability of his visit to Saudi Arabia, Rafsanjani said his government intended from the very beginning to have good relations with Riyadh, "therefore it was proposed they visit Iran or we go to that country.

He said during the recent visit of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Saudi Arabia the matter was raised, and the government's policy is to have exchange visits. However, the visits have not yet been announced.

Foreign Ministry Official Criticizes Indyk Remarks

NC2305125893 Paris AFP in English 1215 GMT 23 May 93

[Excerpt] Tehran, May 23 (AFP) - Iran on Sunday [23 May] deplored calls by a senior U.S. official that the administration of President Bill Clinton should maintain the political and military isolation of the Islamic Republic.

U.S. presidential aide Martin Indyk called Friday for stronger isolation of both Iran and Iraq, citing Tehran's alleged support for terrorism and its attempts to dominate the Gulf.

"These statements show once again that the Americans are not pleased with the rapprochement and the strengthening of relations between Iran and the (Arab) Gulf countries," a Foreign Ministry official told AFP.

The remarks also underline Washington's "concern because they do not serve its illegitimate interests in the region which can only be guaranteed through rifts and regional instability," said the official who declined to be named.

Indyk, a special advisor to Clinton on Middle East and South Asian affairs, ruled out any plans by the United States to normalise ties with Iran unless it made a radical policy change. [passage omitted]

Anniversary of Khorramshahr Liberation Marked

IRGC Commander Comments

LD2205114393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Military maneuvers marking the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr will start tomorrow in the operation zone of Beyt-ol Moqaddas. In these maneuvers, which are to commemorate martyrs and epic-makers during operations leading to the liberation of Khorramshahr, more than 80,000 infantry personnel and an armored brigade from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' [IRGC] ground force, will display their combat capabilities.

Brigadier General Mohammad 'Ali Ja'fari, the commander of the IRGC's ground force, met today with reporters to announce this and said: In these maneuvers, new military equipment, including advanced weapons will be used, and it will reveal the evolution of the IRCG's combative role. He added: Forces participating in these maneuvers will enter Khorramshahr on the anniversary of its liberation on 24 May, so as to rejuvenate the glorious memory of the Beyt-ol Moqaddas-2 operation. He recalled: The combat and defensive ability of the IRGC's ground force is in an ideal condition, and this force is able to perform its duties of confronting foreign aggressions and threats as well as safeguarding internal security.

The commander of the IRGC's ground force referred to that force's recent maneuvers, in cooperation with the law enforcement forces and the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army, to establish and safeguard security on the country's border. He said: With the wise decisions of the commander in chief of the armed forces, that is His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, since the second half of the year 1371 [21 September 1992 to 21 March 1993] this force has been shouldering the responsibility of confronting convoys of drug smugglers and insurgents on the country's eastern border. By carrying out a number of major operations against insurgent elements and the merchants of death, this force has succeeded in bringing about security in the country's eastern regions.

He added: A number insurgent groups in the east of the country have surrendered and received letters of safe conduct from the Islamic Republic of Iran, while some others have applied for it.

In this interview, Brig. Gen. Ja'fari referred to operations carried out by the IRGC's ground force in the northwest of the country, with the aim of silencing counterrevolutionary elements and the mercenaries of foreigners. He stressed: The IRGC is determined to continue pursuing and crushing the terrorist elements until their mischievous acts are completely repelled.

He made it clear: We cannot tolerate that the enemies of our people have been armed on the other side of the border and are attacking the sacred territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: Giving sanctuary to counterrevolutionary elements and enemies of the Islamic republic, and the fact that they are provided with arms in Iraq, is in itself a blatant violation of the cease-fire, and we have sufficient evidence of this.

He also referred to a few limited explosions in the southern border areas, and said: These low and desperate moves are taking place because the presidential elections are approaching. He added: Six Monafeq terrorists [Mojahedin-e Khalq members] were recently killed in a clash with IRGC forces in the southern regions, and some were arrested.

Fallen Servicemen Honored

LD2205121493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 May 93

[Excerpt] On the eve of the memorable and epic-making 11th anniversary of Khorramshahr's liberation, Major General Ali Shahbazi, chief of the joint staff of the

Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, issued a message paying tribute to the memory of selfless sacrifices of the victorious personnel of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC], army, Basiji, Jihad, and the other personnel of the armed forces in the course of the victorious Beyt-ol Moqaddas operations. He considered that great victory as a salient indication of the unbeatable and decisive will of the resistant and warrior nation of the Islamic Iran in the way of achieving the glorious victories during eight years of holy defense. [passage omitted]

President Pays Tribute

LD2205174393 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani here Saturday [22 May] paid tribute to Muslim combatants who liberated the Iranian Persian Gulf port city of Khorramshahr on May 24, 1982. He said the liberation of the Iranian port city from the Iraqi aggressors would be for ever recorded in the histroy as a brilliant evidence of the inherent capacity of Muslim forces and of their ability to stand on independent of foreign forces.

The president who was addressing a group of visiting staff of a foundation responsible for preserving the wartime accomplishments of the Muslim combatants said in the wake of the liberation of the port city by Iran's Muslim combatants the world arrogance learned about the true potential of those forces and about the potential threat to it by Islam and therefore embarked on long-term planning against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He also called on the foundation to preserve the wartime accomplishments by keeping their memory for ever live in the minds of the public.

Before his address to the visiting group the director of the foundation, Mehdi Shamran, offered a brief report to the president on the activities of the foundation and noted that war-related information has been collected which will offer the input to computer systems that are shortly to be operated.

He observed that cultural work is one way for fighting off cultural inroads by the West, and recommended that cultural programs in Iran be improved as a safeguard against that type of inroad.

Ahmad Khomeyni Speaks

LD2405110993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpts] On the anniversary of the eternal and pride-inspiring epic of the liberation of Khorramshahr, joint ceremonies were held in the morning by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces at the blessed resting place of his eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to paradise. The participating forces paid their respects to the lofty status of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and renewed their allegiance to the sacred ideals of Khomeyni, the great.

In the course of the ceremonies—which were attended by the chief of the general command headquarters, the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the defense minister, the commanders of the Army's three forces, the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's law enforcement forces, and various representative units from the Armed Forces—special morning ceremonies were first performed by the ceremonial unit and a wreath was laid on the luminous resting place of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni delivered a speech in which he praised the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces during eight years of holy defense and described the liberation of Khorramshahr as the highest peak of pride for the resistant nation and Armed Forces. He added: After this great victory, the behavior of global arrogance toward the Islamic revolution and our people altered, and they began their battle against Islam as a school of thought that could create such steadfast, brave, and selfless forces. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: Today, the strength and steadfastness of our Armed Forces and our people has been proven to the entire world, and we must try to maintain our unity and continue to strengthen our military and spiritual foundations. We must defend the honor of Islam and our achievements—made as a result of the blood given by our eminent martyrs—under the command of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, who is the child, student, and total adherent of the path of his eminence the imam, may he be admitted to paradise; who is standing fast like a mountain before all powers and who is not retreating one inch from the ideals and values of the revolution and the imam.

Special Maneuvers To Be Held

LD2205112493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 May 93

[Excerpts] The Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces will stage a number of special maneuvers and parades and will perform various programs to mark the anniversary of the Beyt ol-Moqqadas-2 operation [which led to the recapture of Khorramshahr during the Iraq-Iran war].

The deputy in charge of publicity and public relations at the ideological and political bureau of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army announced this news today. [passage omitted]

The same report mentions that the Islamic Republic of Iran's ground forces will hold three extensive joint

maneuvers together with the Air Force and the Army Air Force at three areas of Aliabad in Qom, Dasht-e Azadegan in Ahvaz, and Darnegun in Shiraz on 22, 23, and 24 May to mark the historic anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr and in order to maintain their fighting capability.

During the maneuvers, Air Force fighters and Army Air Force helicopters will stage a series of operations to bombard hypothetical enemy positions and practice supply-line methods, while ground forces will attack and occupy preplanned positions and reacting against ground, air, and chemical counterattacks by a hypothetical enemy.

8,000 Men in First Phase

LD2305111393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] On the eve of 3 Khordad [24 May], the anniversary of liberation of Khorramshahr, the first phase of the great Beyt ol-Moqaddas-2 military maneuvers began today with the code of Ya 'Ali bin-Abi-Talib [first Shiite imam] in the general zone of Jogheir in the south of the country, with the aim of commemorating the epic of Khorramshahr's liberation as well as creating combat readiness in the units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' [IRGC] ground force.

In this phase of the maneuvers, in which units from the IRGC's ground force totaling 8,000 men participated, the artillery units from Vali-e Asr's 7th corps, the 64th Brigade of Al-Hadith as well as fighter aircraft and fighting and logistic teams of the Army Aviation Corps were supporting the participating forces. Furthermore, in these exercises, new weapons for reaching predetermined targets were used for the first time. The first phase of the great Beyt ol-Moqaddas-2 maneuvers is taking place in an area as extensive as the area of operations leading to liberation of Khorramshahr, with the objective of gaining access to the main road between Ahvaz and Khorramshahr, as well as capturing the positions of the hypothetical enemy. The second phase of these maneuvers will continue tomorrow, and the participating units of the IRGC's ground force will enter Khorramshahr triumphantly on the anniversary of that resistant city's liberation.

The commander of the IRGC's ground force, his deputy, a delegation from the Armed Forces General Command Headquarters, the governor general of Khuzestan Province, and the Friday prayer leader of Khorramshahr were present at the ceremonies of the great Beyt ol-Moqaddas-2 maneuvers.

Furthermore, with the participation of the main units of the army of Islamic Republic of Iran's ground force, the great and extensive Fath [victory] military maneuvers marking the anniversary of Khorramshahr's liberation took place in an area measuring dozens of square kilometers in Dasht-e Azadegan in Ahvaz and Allah-o Akbar heights. In these maneuvers, the brave men of the army's ground force halted the advances of the hypothetical enemy. They surmounted defense lines, carried out night offensives accompanied by surprise attacks, occupied and intervening targets. This morning these units, with support from light and heavy artillery fire, the air force's fighter-bombers, as well as the firing teams of the Army Aviation Corps, carried out a coordinated offensive, and repelled the hypothetical enemy from the country.

In the ceremonies of these maneuvers, the representative of the vali-e faqih [Khamene'i] and Friday prayer leader of Ahvaz, the commander of the army's ground force, the governor general of Khuzestan province, and military and civil officials were present. It is noteworthy that simultaneous with these exercises, the army's ground force is carrying out two other major maneuvers in Darengun in Shiraz and Aliabad in Qom.

President Addresses Security Forces Personnel

LD2305134993 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described security forces as the guardians of peace and order in the country. Addressing a large group of security force commanders and personnel this morning, the president also termed as very positive the merger of the existing forces into a single security force to help promote their efficiency and performance that directly effect maintenance of security and order in the country. The president then urged the members of the force to always upgrade their abilities and improve their functions to counter the enemy's conspiracies.

Justice Minister Says West Gives Safe Haven to Terrorists

LD2205171093 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—Justice Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Esma'il Shushtari told a group of parliamentarians from Germany that the big powers have consistently exploited the topic of human rights as a lever for bringing pressure to Iran.

He said on the one hand certain foreign powers accuse the Islamic Republic of indulgence in terrorist acts while the same powers are offering a safe haven to a group of terrorists who have killed people in Iran.

Shushtari said that sometime ago United Nations Human Rights Envoy Galindo Pohl visited Tehran within the context of his mission but, proved very biased in his reporting to the United Nations. He said for that reason Galindo Pohl had been barred entry into Iran, however, the Islamic Republic would willingly accept any independent mission in Iran for that purpose.

The justice minister said countries such as Iran whose territory forms part of the international smuggling route shoulder a heavy responsibility in that respect. He said

he had visited the state prison 'Evin' sometime ago and that he was pleassed with the general status of the prison and with the corrective programs that are systematically undertaken in the interest of the convict smugglers.

The Evin prison in uptown Tehran is devoted to offenders in relation with the illegal sale, smuggling or possession of narcotics.

The German parliamentarians are here for talks with Iranian officials and with deputies of the Majles (parliament).

Candidate Taheri Favors Direct Talks With U.S.

LD2405105493 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—A presidential candidate here Monday [24 May], commenting on ties with the U.S., came in favor of holding direct talks with Washington to normalize relations. "Some would consider direct talks as being harmful whereas indirect talks are much more harmful. The main point is that as imam (Khomeyni) had stressed we would not yield to the hegemony of any government, especially the U.S. which tries to become master of the world," said former Majles deputy Rajabali Taheri who, along with three others, will run in the June 11 presidential elections.

Taheri and one of his rivals, Chancellor of the Open Islamic University 'Abdollah Jasbi, took part in a debate at IRNA headquarters here in presence of a group of domestic and foreign reporters. The two outlined their viewpoints on important domestic and foreign policy issues.

All the four candidates had been invited to the debate but President Rafsanjani regretted because of "being too busy" and receiving the invitation "a bit late." Another candidate, former Labour Minister Ahmad Tavakkoli, did not attend despite having announced his readiness earlier.

"In our foreign policy towards other countries, the U.S. included, we are not hostile to any government or nation. But, as long as our right is being trampled and our assets blocked, it is our duty to defend our right and use necessary means in this connection," Taheri said.

On the same subject, Jasbi said: "In our opinion, as long as the U.S. upholds its hostile policy against the Islamic Republic of Iran and blocks its wealth, resumption of diplomatic ties with America cannot be accepted by our people." On plans for privatization and foreign investment in Iran, Taheri noted that policies should be drawn as such that the government could gradually withdraw from trade and industrial activities. In other words, he said, people should produce and the government should supervise over circulation of wealth.

"As far as foreign investment is concerned, we are not afraid of countries and investors. What we say is that there should be no exploitation. If there is a sound investment within the context of our policy, there would be no obstacle in this connection," said Taheri. Jasbi commented that as long as foreign investment served national interests, did not contradict Islamic values and did not intend to inject foreign cultures, it would be welcomed.

Touching on economic issues, Jasbi said he confirmed current economic policies including privatization, economic adjustment and single parity rate for foreign currencies. However, he added, the government should hold control both over the public and private sectors in order to prevent the prices from rising more than what is stipulated in economic adjustment. Commenting on the same subject Taheri said he would focus his program on the collection of liquidity through the sale of state-owned factories and government organizations in order to harness inflation.

Candidate Tavakkoli Holds News Conference

NC2105145593 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 May 93 pp 1, 15

[Report by Irfan Parviz; quotation marks as published]

[Text] Tehran—One of the candidates for the presidential elections said yesterday that he was ready to appear on Iranian television for a debate with the his rival, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to discuss issues concerning the nation and others.

Former Labor minister Ahmad Tavakkoli addressing a press conference with a smile said, "Yes, I have all the names in my mind for my cabinet. It's natural, when one stands for the presidency, he selects his cabinet first.

In an answer to a question Tavakkoli admitted that he had differences with President Rafsanjani on various issues and believed that "the plan I have for overall improvements in national affairs will pave the way for achieving the real goals of the Islamic Revolution.

He was the first among four presidential candidates whose names were approved by the Guardians Council on Thursday.

The others are Rafsanjani, Islamic Open University Chancellor 'Abdollah Jasbi and former Majles deputy Rajab 'Ali Taheri.

Tavakkoli, himself a journalist working with the Persian daily "RESALAT" believes that there should be freedom for the press and said, "if we allow more publications throughout the country it will be in the interest of our society. If we take press law seriously."

Before the question-answer part of the press conference Tavakkoli explained as to why all should participate in the elections which is to be held on June 11.

"We live in a world where powers have been distributed unfairly. Islamic Iran and its independence and territorial integrity will be preserved and coupled with that the

people's problems will be solved if we have a powerful government," Tavakkoli said.

Explaining his views Tavakkoli said that unlike in "Islamic Iran" power stems from material power and through political maneuvering in other countries.

He said in the Islamic Republic of Iran "power has come by reliance on the Almighty along with presence of the self-sacrificing people."

"The continuation of this power (in Iran) will be possible with Divine leadership and the people's presence," he said.

"In this unbalanced world we are not strong enough to counter the enemies," he noted.

"Although each of us have some criticism as to the status quo and the reason for my participation at the election as a candidate is the same," he said and underlined the fact that still the greater the distance between an ideal election and the status quo is the greater is the need felt to fight elections."

"Islamic Iran is a powerful country, both on the internal scene and the domestic scene... We are a nation with long and brilliant records and rich resources and lack nothing for development," Tavakkoli who has a long record of revolutionary activities said.

Tavakkoli who sports a black and white speckled beard said, "We are facing numerous political, economic and social problems in the country and there are several pivotal problems which have decisive effects."

"During my political career what I have tried to say all along is that these problems can be solved and that we need to take action to solve them," he said.

Tavakkoli listed a number of axial issues which he believes should be given due attention for the betterment of the Islamic Revolution and the Muslims of Iran.

"The first is that the government should be efficient, be structured within manageable proportions with a minimum in expenditures and ensure that the government's power does not depend on its vast size or the high cost it takes to keep it going, he said, adding that a government should depend on sound organization, planning, wisdom and expediency."

"Unfortunately, the concentrated economic and social policies over the previous years have turned the government into a body of unusually large numbers (in the administration) of people and weighted by huge expenditures," he said.

"True," he said, "the government has its own thinking in this respect in order to achieve revolutionary goals, but it has nevertheless not been successful."

As a second axis Tavakkoli believes that all ministers should take expedient action, sympathize with the deprived, challenge blasphemy and believe in Islam's efficiency in administering society.

He said that the country's and the world's issues are so complicated that they can be solved only through logical and principled moves based on Islamic values.

"If ministers do not take expedient measures, do not have sufficient sympathy for the downtrodden and fail to truly understand and recognize friends from enemies... they will not be fit or suitable members of a cabinet," he said.

Another axis, according to Tavakkoli, is to inform people of the affairs of the country and the world and let them have a share in the decision-making process of the country.

"It is not possible to rule over a people who have high political insight and awareness as well as deep religious belief and yet fail to keep them abreast of affairs," he said and pointed out that the "lack of sufficient attention to people's views and the authorities in the administration of the country has harmed us a lot and has resulted in diminishing general confidence."

Emphasizing on the need to counter the Western cultural onslaught he said that "we should be serious on this issue." He said that the West is "concerned that Islam as a school of thought has offered a new and independent culture which is in contradiction with their monopolitic domination."

He said that "our culture is under attack in various ways and on various platforms and if we do not take steps seriously it will be a mistake."

"Another axis," he said, "is that we have to counter the violation of the officials and prepare the ground for the promotion of efficient persons otherwise we cannot expect the establishment of law and order as well as political, social and economic security."

Referring to the popular and wise saying of the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni, Tavakkoli said the Government should consider itself as the servant of the people and not their master.

Tavakkoli said that during the last several years "I personally tried to ensure that a policy of centralization should be ended."

"Centralization in the economic and administrative affairs has ended but we are still critical of certain policies and performances," Tavakkoli told the TEHRAN TIMES in answer to a question.

The former minister firmly believes that if the points he mentioned are translated into practice it would entirely change the face of the country.

He said on foreign policy "we will act on the advice of the Leader of the Islamic Republic."

"We will not resume diplomatic relations with the United States," he commented referring to the foreign policy he will pursue if he wins the presidency.

He told the TEHRAN TIMES that he was ready to appear on television along with President Rafsanjani for a debate and present his points of view on national issues.

Tavakkoli also said that he had all the names of the ministers of his cabinet but would not disclose them at this stage.

Meshkini Criticizes Egypt in Qom Friday Prayer Sermon

LD2105172193 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1410 GMT 21 May 93

[Second Friday prayer sermon delivered by Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Meshkini in Qom on 21 May—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The last point that I would like to mention and then end my remarks is something that I would like you to listen to carefully. Our people should know that among all Islamic governments today the Egyptian Government is the most treacherous one against Islam and Muslims. Pay attention! The most subservient of them to America and Israel is the Egyptian Government. Egypt is a mini-American state and a super-Israeli state within the heart of the Islamic countries. The greatest service to Israel was done by the cursed al-Sadat, by accepting the Camp David Agreement, and by visiting Israel. Husni Mubarak, who has neither any virtues nor any blessing [in Arabic Husn means virtue and Mubarak means blessed], is the servant of America and Israel, a totally submissive servant. It is a wonder that once Egypt was a base for Islam.

Islamic missionaries and scholars used to come from Egypt and travel to other countries to teach. Today the Egyptian Government is using all its power to suppress Islam and the hezbollah. This is what has happened to Egypt today. Any Islamic move is suppressed in Egypt at the outset. Any living Islamic scholar is now suffering from torture, captivity, and restrictions. Any hezbollah youth is arrested, put on trial, and then executed. Intense oppression reigns over Egypt today; you must be informed.

What do you think was the reason behind Mubarak's recent trip to a number of Persian Gulf states? The only aim was to bring about discord between those Persian Gulf states and Iran, making them fearful of Iran, and finally asking for their help in the de-Islamization of his country.

What I need to say after these preliminary remarks is to say to those in the country's seat of power that the issue of Iran coming close to Egypt is not a simple issue. The statesmen should be careful; the Majles and the government must both think along the same line, and then they should convey their final decision to the eminent leader, so that they can take action. [passage omitted]

Commentary Discusses Velayati Gulf Tour

NC2305192593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] This commentary discusses Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati's tour of the Persian Gulf's Arab countries. Following visits to Saudi Arabia and Oman, he arrived yesterday evening in the United Arab Emirates and will later visit Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait. Dr. Velayati is carrying messages from President Hojjat-ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the leaders of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council countries. The tour aims to discuss the development of political, economic, and cultural ties between Iran and its brothers on the Persian Gulf's other coast.

Cooperation among the region's countries is an issue of great importance because of the link between their interests and the establishment of security and peace in this vital, strategic waterway. [passage omitted]

Dozens of giant oil tankers traverse this waterway daily, forging amity and mutual interests in the region. If Gulf security is not guaranteed, the regional countries' economy and the entire world's economy might suffer major damage. The Persian Gulf, sitting astride lakes of oil, has always been the target of foreign designs, particularly from Western countries, which constantly seek to control the region's resources by various means to satisfy their vast requirements of oil and other regional wealth. The Western military, particularly U.S., presence has increased noticeably since the Kuwait crisis. These Western countries want to suggest that their military presence is necessary to guarantee the security of the countries of the Persian Gulf's southern coast. In this context, they and other countries used media campaigns to provoke mistrust among the region's countries, portraying the Islamic Republic of Iran as an imminent danger to the others. Western media exploited a minor problem or disagreement between this and that country, blowing this limited regional misunderstanding out of proportion to establish their hegemony over the region and make it feel threatened by a danger from which only those coming from afar can save it. They exploited this matter hideously to sow sedition and divisions among the brothers in this region and justify their alien military presence and drive its countries to buy more and more Western weapons and equipment, which they do not really need.

The Islamic Republic, recognizing this dangerous and cunning ploy from the beginning, has always maintained that a foreign military presence poses a threat to the region's security and stability and asserted that security hinges on cooperation among the region's countries.

Iran's policy is based on consolidating friendship and respecting the sovereign rights and territorial integrity of neighboring countries.

This policy is a good and solid foundation for the Iranian view of how to achieve security and stability in the vitally strategic Persian Gulf. In line with this view and this sagacious, clear policy, it is possible to resolve regional differences among the fraternal regional countries by political and diplomatic negotiations conducted in an atmosphere of friendship, trust, neighborliness, and fraternity and hence the need for foreign military presence and alien forces in the region disappears. [passage omitted]

* Paper on Hasty Evaluation of Tehran Mayor

93LA0046A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 28 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] In a speech before a gathering of people in Esfahan, Ayatollah Khaz'ali, a respected member of the theologians of the Guardian Council of the Constitution, criticized the record of the mayor of Tehran. He said: In the last two or three years, the mayor of Tehran took 50 years' worth of money from the people, and the day will come when he will be taken to court and sentenced to 10 or 15 years in prison. Because Mr. Khaz'ali is recognized as an important figure, his remarks certainly cannot be discounted. A critical study of his remarks is thus important, but before we do this it is important to mention several points.

Before the triumph of the Islamic revolution, Tehran was considered one of the world's great cities, as it is now, but the deviated Pahlavi government refused to provide minimum urban resources and services apart from its concern for centers of pleasure and feasting and increasing their numbers. The numerous problems in a large city like Tehran, including its unbridled and cancerous growth, are the evil legacy of that same dependent government.

These problems cannot be solved in a short time, and, apart from the daily executive affairs, the mayor of Tehran must work his fingers to the bone to deal with the mountain of problems and difficulties left over from the dark period of the past.

Here one must see what services the mayor of Tehran has provided in return for the various taxes collected from the people. Measures to be taken by the municipality of Tehran include widening the streets, building highways, building bridges over heavily traveled highway intersections, building pedestrian bridges at crowded locations, relative improvement of the public transportation system of the city of Tehran, including the Vahed Bus Company, efforts to solve the traffic problem, investigation and concern for air pollution and other forms of environmental pollution, beginning action to reduce this pollution and increase public urban services in the city of Tehran, improving the trash hauling system and making efforts to reclaim and recycle usable trash, beginning the study to create the AGU (the underground sewage flushing system), digging canals to collect surface and underground water outside the city of Tehran, otherwise, in the long term, Tehran will be sitting on a huge sea of underground water, creating green space in the urban environment with the aim of attaining minimum international standards, meaning 15 square meters of green space per person, making the city more spacious and beautiful in order to change the face of Tehran and make it into a beautiful and peaceful place, building recreational, cultural and sports centers and parks, creating public squares for fruits and vegetables in accordance with the principles of health care and environment, and the destruction of pollution-creating sites such as Tehran's former slaughterhouse and converting it to the Bahman cultural and artistic center.

Now if the decision by the mayor of Tehran to destroy a place like the Shush fruit and vegetable square, a most unhealthy place and one of Tehran's most unsuitable old fruit and vegetable plazas because of its environmental pollution, is opposed by a few people, can one support and back such opposition? One can also cite the same opposition to the plan to change the makeup of the Tehran bazaar. The Tehran bazaar was built based on the needs of one century ago. Its makeup is absolutely not in accordance with new urban principles and standards and the volume of trade, and it cannot meet current needs. Thus opposition by a special group and class, although possible, cannot be a suitable criterion for evaluating the accomplishments of a mayor.

The place, rank and position of Mr. Khaz'ali as clergyman is too high and esteemed to ignore reality in support of that class. Condemning and predetermining the punishment for the mayor of Tehran is entirely in conflict with constructive and concerned criticism of the mayor's office and the mayor of Tehran. The record of the Mayor of Tehran is undoubtedly open to criticism, because no action is perfect or without faults. Constructive criticism opens the way for action, and no one is saying that the mayor of Tehran is above criticism. The proverb "he who writes nothing makes no spelling mistakes" comes to mind. It is through work and effort that defects and weaknesses appear along with strengths and positive points. Of course it is incumbent upon the mayor of Tehran to identify defects and weaknesses and make more and better efforts to make reforms, but let it not remain unsaid that it is not a easy thing to manage a large city like Tehran, with its dysfunctional situation and its many problems.

It is not possible to solve these problems and manage affairs without money. Based on existing laws, the mayor's office is required to rely on financial resources independent of the government. This means that to obtain its budget and meet its expenses the mayor's office must collect taxes from the citizens. If there are more urban resources and services, naturally more taxes will be collected. Of course the person who has considerable financial power and to that extent also benefits from urban services should also pay more taxes. As the

saying goes, whoever has the biggest roof collects the most snow. One of the current concerns of the Tehran mayor's office is finding legal ways to collect urban taxes and oppose the views of those who have no kind of belief in such an accomplishment. These people do not even have a favorable view of the government collecting taxes, yet based on published statistics in the IMF statistical annual, Iran has the lowest tax revenues among Asian and Middle Eastern nations. Even some African nations have a better situation in terms of tax collections than Iran.

Another problem of mayor's offices, and consequently of the Tehran mayor's office, is increased prices and inflation at all levels of service and development. As in the past, Tehran could have a passive mayor who does little, someone who neither takes money from the people nor spends money for the welfare of citizens and to improve the situation in Tehran, but would such a person be acceptable to the people? The mayor of Tehran is not a sinner for collecting more money from the citizens and spending it to put Tehran in order. He would be a criminal if he collected money and spent it for improper purposes. Naturally, collecting more money will mean providing more and better welfare and urban services, and this is the responsibility of the mayor's office. Of course along with this there is the possibility of errors, mistakes, and even abuses by a few opportunists, but the mere possibility of errors and mistakes is no sign that the mayor is a criminal to be condemned. Threatening the mayor of Tehran will only lead to weakening successful management, especially if management is weakened by unsound economic factions. It will be even more regrettable when individuals unknowingly strengthen welfare-seeking factions.

Pakistan

Army Prepares Plans for Supervising Elections

BK2305162293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] A spokesman for the Ministry of Defense has said the Army has been entrusted on the basis of a national consensus the task of supervising and conducting the general elections to be held on the due date. The Army has accordingly prepared a comprehensive plan for the supervision and assistance in the conduct of elections.

Provincial Assembly To Elect New Balochistan Chief

BK2305064093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Balochistan Governor Sardar Gul Mohammad Khan Jogezai has summoned a meeting of the provincial assembly on 30 May to elect a new leader of the house. He has also accepted the resignation of Chief Minister Mir Taj Mohammad Khan Jamali, who resigned yesterday. Talking to newsmen in Quetta last night, Jamali said that the ruling bench has unanimously nominated Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Magsi as the new leader of the house to head the government.

Sharif: Judiciary, Army Should Not Be Politicized

BK2105110193 Karachi DAWN in English 21 May 93 p 6

[Text] Islamabad, May 20—Deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif said here on Thursday the country's judiciary should not be made controversial but should be allowed to play its role without criticism from any quarter.

"If we try to make our judiciary controversial it would be unjust the [words indistinct] comments in this behalf", he added.

Speaking at a news conference at the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] Media Centre, he said that the judiciary and the Army should not be dragged into politics. "If we continue to do so we will have to pay a very heavy price for it," he warned.

The ousted prime minister was commenting on PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Co-chairman Ms Benazir Bhutto's statement in which she said that the "courts should not take decisions to restore or not to restore the dissolved assemblies according to their liking."

The ousted prime minister believed that it was in the national interest that both the institutions—the judiciary and the Army—should not be open to criticism.

"You may talk about having a new social contract or political contract but you must not drag these two highly respected institutions into politics and malign them directly or indirectly," Mr. Nawaz Sharif joined issue with Ms Bhutto without naming her.

He regretted that whosoever was defeated in the elections started blaming others for having rigged the elections.

The deposed prime minister also for the first time criticised Ms Benazir Bhutto after his dismissal for siding with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. "She used to say 'Go, Baba, go' and everybody now witnessed that she harmed democracy by joining hands with Mr. Ishaq Khan," Mr. Sharif added.

He also disputed that the PPP leader wanted to repeal the controversial Eighth Amendment and said. "When the time came to join hands for undoing that amendment, she left the country."

Mian Nawaz Sharif alleged that Ms Bhutto had double standards in politics. He viewed her statement to remove the 8th Amendment as more slogan-mongering. "Had she been serious about undoing that amendment she should have sided with us and not with the President".

He told a reporter that he was not having a confrontation with the President and that he was only trying to strengthen democracy in which he enjoyed full support of the nation.

The ousted prime minister claimed that he today enjoyed the support of the majority of the MNAs [members of National Assembly] and any "attempt to impose any leadership other than Nawaz Sharif would be a big (?mistake) assignment.

The deposed prime minister rejected the allegations that his government compromised Pakistan's nuclear programme. "It is ridiculous to presume that we compromised Pakistan's position on the nuclear programme."

He claimed that he had adopted a very daring policy on the nuclear issue which Islamabad's foreign friends have also appreciated.

He regretted that a person whom he appointed ambassador to Sri Lanka was involved in spreading disinformation against him. Without naming Mr. Hussain Haqqani he said, "I had appointed him as our ambassador to Sri Lanka and he was also involved in conspiring against us."

Responding to a question Mr. Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan never encouraged terrorism. "We have been in fact subjected to terrorism and we still oppose that vehemently."

Talking about the issue of Kashmir, he said this was an unsettled issue which demanded the implementation of UN resolution. He said whenever there was any problem in India its leadership [words indistinct] denied that Islamabad was ever involved in organising subversive activities in India. Rather, he said, India was killing hundreds of innocent people in Kashmir and the western world did snot take any notice of it.

Answering a question the deposed prime minister pointed out that the President of the World Bank had met him on Wednesday and appreciated IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] government's economic policies. The World Bank President also said that Pakistan's current economic policies were taking it into the 21 century, he added.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif alleged that the official electronic media was being used for his character assassination. "The army of the ministers has been deputed to malign my position", he said.

He said he did not believe in political revenge. He called upon the politicians to forge a consensus on various vital national issues.

U.S. Changing Policy on South Asia Viewed

'Sensible' Approach Welcomed

BK2105103393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 May 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Clinton for Indo-Pak Detente"]

[Text] Mr. John Malott, who left Islamabad for New Delhi on Sunday, made very sensible statements on the issue of Pak-India relations in the Indian capital on Wednesday. The senior most official of the Clinton administration to visit the region, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State while speaking at the India International centre, in New Delhi called upon Pakistan and India to end their cold war and start a process of detente to resolve issues between them. Detente is exactly what Pakistan has been seeking in vain with India. Islamabad's leaders have been calling for dialogue and consultation on each and every bone of contention between the two countries including regional security and nuclear non-proliferation, Kashmir and the Bombay bomb blast, but India has said nothing doing. In fact, New Delhi has backed out on all bilateral talks even at the secretary level which had not been held since August last year. Thus Pakistan welcomes Washington's offer to (in Mr. Malott's words) "push, prod, cajole," encourage both countries to reduce tension, build confidence between them and move beyond rhetoric and posturing to start a process of detente." Washington's offer to encourage direct high-level Indo-Pakistani discussions on regional security and non-proliferation is particularly welcome. This reflects American endorsement of the regional approach to non-proliferation which is Islamabad's long-standing position on the issue. Pakistan's leaders have already made a number of regional non-proliferation related proposals and have expressed willingness to accept any non-proliferation measure agreeable to India. Pakistan's proposal for a five-nation conference—including India, China, Russia and the US—is still on the table awaiting the green signal from New Delhi.

Encouraging from Islamabad's perspective [words indistinct]. He said that the US considered it to be disputed territory: This is exactly Islamabad's stand in contrast to that of New Delhi which claims Kashmir to be an "inseparable" part of India. Mr. Malott also urged India to take steps to curb abuses by its troops in Kashmir, give access to International human rights groups and pursue a meaningful political dialogue with the Kashmiris—all very sound and legitimate calls whichd Islamabad emphatically endorses. In fact, Washington was stronger in censuring India's human rights violations in Kashmir than ever before. Mr. Malott cautioned New Delhi publicly by saying that it should "narrow the gap" between "the principles of human rights, in the Indian Constitution and what actually happens in Kashmir. Mr. Malott revealed that reports of human rights violations by India and security forces in Kashmir had created pressure from congress for a stop to [words indistinct]

tween the navies of the two countries and the discontinuation of the training of Indian military officers in US military academies.

However, it is unfortunate that while Mr. Malott was in India to help facilitate regional stability, America's close ally, Israel, was there to try and sabotage this effort. Israel's Foreign Minister' condemnation of Pakistan for "aiding and abetting in terrorism" and avowed support for moves to declare Pakistan a terrorist state are irresponsible utterances that have no place in President Clinton's policy of encouraging detente in South Asia. Ideally speaking, Islamabad and New Delhi should sort out their problems across the table without involving any other country, especially the US which has its own interrests in the region. But given India's intransigence, any credible offer from an influential third party to help reduce, if not end tension in the subcontinent is welcome.

Analysis of Kashmir Issue Viewed

BK2105101793 Karachi DAWN in English 21 May 93 p 11

[Editorial: "A Welcome Approach"]

[Text] There is nothing startingly new about what the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. John Malott, has said in New Delhi about the Kashmir dispute in a speech which amounts to a policy statement on South Asia. It has always been the American position that Kashmir (the whole of it) is a disputed territory and that the dispute should be settled peacefully in accordance with the wishes of the population of the state. Still, the formulations in Mr. Malott's New Delhi speech sound different for the simple reason that the United States seems to be looking at [words indistinct] posing a threat to the region's peace, with an urgency that was lacking throughout the Bush years. America is now saying that its approach to both India and Pakistan will be even-handed which in itself is something that Pakistan will warmly welcome. It is urging India and Pakistan to settle their differences and it is presenting itself as a catalyst to help achieve this objective.

It is against this backdrop that Mr. Malott's analysis of the Kashmir dispute acquires added significance. "This is an issue," he says, "to be settled peacefully by India and Pakistan, taking the views of the Kashmiris, both Muslim and non-Muslim, into account." He has referred to credible reports that Pakistan is providing official support to some of the militants," a charge Pakistan has been at pains to deny. But more significantly he has urged India to take steps to curb abuses by its troops in Kashmir, give access to international human rights groups and pursue "a meaningful political dialogue with the Kashmiris". Saying that the Clinton administration's primary concern in South Asia was to reduce tensions and prevent war between India and Pakistan, "as it could lead to the employment of nuclear weapons," Mr. Malott has said that the US would encourage direct high-level Indo-Pakistan talks on regional security and non-proliferation and supplement them "with our own bilateral discussions with both countries".

Pakistan has every reason to welcome this approach because instead of making Pakistan as the sole target of American concern and enger, it puts Indo-Pakistan relations in a regional context. The onus for improving the climate for peace in South Asia is thus placed on both countries. There is also the recognition of the centrality of the Kashmir dispute to improving relations [words indistinct] and there is the commitment that the US will use its good offices to help both countries "to convert the principles embodied in the Simla paper into a reality." Accusing Pakistan of abetting what the US chooses to call "terrorist" activities in Kashmir or putting pressure on Pakistan alone to abandon its nuclear programme was seen with considerable justification in Pakistan as an exercise in selectivity. There are hopeful signs that that tilt may now give way to a more sensitive and subtle appreciation of South Asian realities. This has made the US's new approach to South asia more credible for instead of merely stressing the necessity of avoiding an armed conflict in the region, the US is now expressing its readiness to help India and Pakistan tackle the root causes of crisis and conflict in South Asia.

Pakistan has every reason to support this approach and to engage the United States more effectively and closely in the quest for peace in South Asia. Both India and Pakistan have demonstrated that left to themselves they can only aggravate but not solve their problems. It the US is now willing to take a more active interest in the region and, what is equally important, if it is able to sustain an even-handed approach in the region, it augurs well for the future.

Pirzada: U.S. 'Evenhanded' on Nuclear Issue

BK2205085093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr. Sharifuddin Pirzada, has said that the United States now seems to be adopting somewhat an even-handed policy over the nuclear issue with Pakistan. Talking to newsmen in New York last night, he said he believed Washington will now be looking at the nuclear issue in the context of South Asia which vindicates Pakistan's stand. He said Pakistan has always been advocating South Asia to be a nuclear-free zone and that Pakistan would not unilaterally sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty unless India also signs it. Replying to a question, the foreign minister said the United States fully understands Pakistan's position on terrorism and has taken due note of Pakistan's position and the various steps and actions that we have taken. He said Pakistan had always condemned terrorism in all its form. Asked whether Pakistan stood concerned by the Indo-Israeli collaboration following Israeli foreign minister's visit to New Delhi, he said Pakistan has to be watchful.

Reportage on Afghan President Visit, News Conference

Rabbani on Refugees

BK2105155793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Afghan President Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani has said that all roads leading to Kabul have been opened after the Jalalabad agreement and people can freely return to their homes. Addressing a gathering of Afghan refugees at Chamkanni near Peshawar today, he said that leaders of all Afghan groups have expressed the spirit of [word indistinct] and patriotism in order to settle their differences. The Afghan president expressed the hope that after the Jalalabad agreement, the Afghan refugees will now return home and wholeheartedly play their role in the reconstruction of their war-ravaged country. He thanked the government and the people of Pakistan for providing all kinds of assistance during the 14-year-old nerve-testing and courageous jihad against the Soviet troops.

The commission set up under the Jalalabad agreement, has successfully established a cease-fire between rival factions in Kabul. (Habibollah Meraj), a presidential spokesman, told Radio Pakistan's representative in Peshawar today that members of the commission have started meeting with all sides in a bid to establish peace in the country. The presidential spokesman said that all leaders including Golboddin Hekmatyar will return to Kabul soon to assume their new responsibilities. He said that Commander Mas'ud has voluntarily relinquished his post to pave the way for a durable and permanent peace.

Rabbani Arrives in Islamabad

BK2205085693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] The Afghan president, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, arrived in Islamabad this morning from Peshawar. He was received by the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mir Balakh Sher Mazari. Others present to welcome the distinguished guest included federal ministers and senior officials. The Afghan president will hold talks with the president and the prime minister on the Jalalabad accord regarding the formation of Afghan cabinet.

Ishaq Khan Meets Rabbani

BK2205142793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] The president of Afghanistan, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President House] today and exchanged views with him on the latest developments in Afghanistan. The prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, was also present on the occasion.

President Rabbani briefed the president and the prime minister about the recent agreement reached in Jalalabad. He said the agreement has been achieved after discussions with all the Afghan leaders. They have also been able to decide on a cabinet. Prof. Rabbani expressed confidence that Jalalabad agreement would lead to a permanent peace in Afghanistan. The Afghan president thanked President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for Pakistan's continued support to Afghanistan.

Welcoming the Jalalabad agreement, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari reaffirmed Pakistan's full support and assistance to Afghanistan. During the meeting, bilateral cooperation, especially in the field of communications and matters pertaining to return of Afghan refugees and reconstruction of Afghanistan also came under discussion. Leaders accompanying the Afghan president were also present. Later, the president hosted a luncheon in honor of the Afghan president which was also attended by the prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, Chairman of Senate Mr. Wasim Sajjad, some federal ministers, chief minister of NWFP [North-West Frontier Province], members of the visiting president's entourage, diplomats, and senior officials.

All Parties To Surrender Heavy Weapons

BK2305144293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] The president of Afghanistan, Mr. Borhanoddin Rabbani, has expressed the hope that the accord reached recently among Mojahedin organizations in Jalalabad will help restore peace in his country. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said the main point they sorted out after three weeks of discussions was about the collection of heavy weapons from the warring factions. This, in fact, was the main obstacle in the way of peace. All parties have now agreed to surrender heavy weapons to a specially appointed commission. He clarified that the Jalalabad accord is not in contradiction of the earlier accords reached in Peshawar and Islamabad. They reflect various stages of our progress toward peace. In the Peshawar accord, the transfer of power was ensured to leaders of the Afghan jihad, while in Islamabad a broader agreement was reached on the formation of Shura-ye Hal wa 'Aqd [Resolution and Settlement Council] and the cabinet. In Jalalabad, practical shape was given to the shura and the cabinet, besides reaching agreement on countrywide cease-fire.

About his talks with the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, Professor Rabbani said he sought Pakistan's assistance for repatriation of Afghan refugees and the reconstruction of Afghanistan.